

Evans Vs. Alabama

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Court : US Supreme Court

Decided On : Apr-21-1983

Appeal No. : 461 U.S. 1301

Appellant : Evans

Respondent : Alabama

Judgement :

Evans v. Alabama - 461 U.S. 1301 (1983)

U.S. Supreme Court Evans v. Alabama, 461 U.S. 1301 (1983)

Evans v. Alabama

No. A-848 (82-6581)

Decided April 21, 1983

461 U.S. 1301

ON APPLICATION FOR STAY

SYLLABUS

An application for a stay of execution of applicant's death sentence, pending the disposition of his petition for certiorari to review the Alabama Supreme Court's denial of his motion requesting a new sentencing hearing, is denied. Applicant's constitutional challenges to Alabama's capital sentencing procedures have been rejected by several state and federal courts.

JUSTICE POWELL, Circuit Justice.

This is an application for a stay of execution set for April 22, 1983, pending the disposition of a petition for certiorari to the Alabama Supreme Court. The petition for certiorari was filed on April 19, 1983. This application was filed later the same day, following the Alabama Supreme Court's denial of applicant's motion for a stay of execution. On April 20 the State filed a response in opposition to the application for a stay, and applicant filed a reply to the State's opposition.

Applicant was tried and convicted on April 26, 1977, in the Mobile County, Ala., Circuit Court of first-degree murder committed during the commission of a robbery. The trial court sentenced him to death. Applicant's conviction and sentence were affirmed by the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, *Evans v. State*, 361 So.2d 654 (1977), and the Alabama Supreme Court, 361 So.2d 666 (per curiam), *rehearing denied*, 361 So.2d 672 (1978) (per curiam). This Court denied a petition for certiorari. 440 U.S. 930 (1979).

In April, 1979, applicant filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, challenging the constitutionality of both

Page 461 U. S. 1302

the conviction and the death sentence. The District Court rejected all of his contentions and denied the petition. *Evans v. Britton*, 472 F.Supp. 707 (1979). The Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit reversed, finding that applicant's conviction was invalid. *Evans v. Britton*, 628 F.2d 400 (1980) (per curiam), *modified on rehearing*, 639 F.2d 221 (1981) (per curiam). This Court granted the State's petition for a writ of certiorari and, after briefing and argument, reversed the

judgment of the Court of Appeals. *Hopper v. Evans*, [456 U. S. 605](#) (1982).

This Court's judgment reinstated applicant's conviction, but his challenges to Alabama's capital sentencing procedures remained to be decided by the Court of Appeals on remand. In July, 1982, however, applicant dismissed his attorneys and filed a motion with the Court of Appeals seeking to dismiss his appeal. The court dismissed the appeal on October 19, 1982.

On October 22, 1982, the State of Alabama sought an order from the Alabama Supreme Court setting an execution date. Applicant then filed a motion requesting a new sentencing hearing. On February 18, 1983, the Alabama Supreme Court denied this motion, and on April 8, 1983, the court ordered that applicant's execution be set for April 22, 1983.

Applicant's constitutional challenges to Alabama's capital sentencing procedures have been reviewed exhaustively and repetitively by several courts in both the state and federal systems. I have reviewed the record, and conclude that there is not "a reasonable probability that four Members of the Court would find that this case merits review." *White v. Florida*, [458 U. S. 1301](#) , [458 U. S. 1302](#) (1982) (POWELL, J., in chambers). All of the papers relevant to applicant's request for a stay of execution also have been circulated to the entire Court. With the concurrence of six other Members of the Court, I deny the application for a stay.

JUSTICE BRENNAN and JUSTICE MARSHALL have indicated that they would vote to grant the stay.