Dear Arbitrators,

Hope you’ve all had a peaceful and relaxing summer, because as of next week, school is back in full swing. So much has happened in just that little dash between May and August! First of all, WE HAVE MOVED AGAIN! The Solicitor’s Office Arbitration Program is now located across from the City County Complex at 147 North Irby Street in Florence. We are housed along with the Solicitor’s Worthless Check Unit and our old neighbors, Drug Court. Thanks goes to Solicitor Clements and Jim Miles, Office Manager for the Solicitor’s Office, who have worked hard to make sure we have everything you need in a successful hearing location. If you haven’t had a chance to visit (or hold a hearing—hint, hint!), please come by and see your new place of business. We have settled in, and hearings are in full bloom. We’d love to see you and schedule you for hearings!

Thanks to all of our kids who have worked so hard on their sanctions and donated to local charities over the summer. We’ve kept Solicitor Clements busy! Thanks, Solicitor, for taking the time to deliver some of these donations to recipients at Florence School District One, Florence County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, and Harvest Hope of the Pee Dee. Also thanks to our entire network of local partners who are making our community a brighter place for all of our citizens of all ages.

The Insiders continue to provide a very meaningful window of knowledge for our Florence and Marion youth. When meeting with your families, remember to utilize the Insiders Program. If you would like to see any of the letters or essays, your kids write, please just ask. Liz and I will be more than happy to let you in on the literary projects your kids are working on. And don’t forget the Florence County Detention Center tour! We put in a call to Lt. Brown as soon as we have around 10 kids for the tour, so there is usually one tour a month. Just sanction the FCDCT, and we’ll take care of the rest. Sanctioned essays about the Insiders and Prison tour are a great way to really find out what the kids are learning from their time in Arbitration. Special thanks and congratulations to Jane Bowman, our ECP Arbitrator, who continues to handle the tours for us and who recently graduated from FDTC.

On a very sad note, in July we lost a special Arbitrator and dear friend, Jim Burns, to Lou Gehrig’s disease. In December, Mr. Burns received the Solicitor’s Century Award for holding over 100 hearings. We will all miss this man who made a tremendous impact within our community.

Finally, let’s welcome our new Intern from Florence Darlington Technical College, Hilary Ingrum. She is assisting with all aspects of the Solicitor’s Office and is currently working in Check Unit and Arbitration.

Welcome to Fall y’all! Like I said, we’ve been busy. Take care, and come see us!

Odds and Ends:

Please remember the Florence County Detention Center tour. Once we get at least 20 kids for the tour, we will send out letters to the juveniles. We have updates on our paperwork! The Arbitrator Check List has been updated and is now more comprehensive. Also, because we have a new community service site, Palmetto Goodwill, our community service sites list has also been updated.

Remember, when sanctioning General Sessions, make sure parent or guardian understands they have to stay with juvenile in courtroom! When sanctioning General Sessions, the Insiders Program or Florence County Detention Tour, please put TBA in the due date column.

Remember to be VERY specific on your sanction form as to what exactly you expect the child to do. Telling them is simply not enough; write out what is expected. Many parents forget because of other things going on in their lives or get confused and don’t ask the proper questions to help clarify. If it’s not clearly written on the sanction form [such as the topic of an essay], we must accept whatever the parent or juvenile turns in.

Community service sites can also be churches. We will need basic information (name of church and supervisor, address and phone number). Please don’t forget this information as it is very important.
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LOOK WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ALL WORK TOGETHER!!!

Solicitor Clements shakes hands with Dr. Allie E. Brooks, Interim Superintendent over Florence School District One. Over $800 were donated to FSD1!

Solicitor Clements stands beside Michael Murphy, Director of Pee Dee Branch of Harvest Hope, offering almost $850 of donations contributed through Juvenile Arbitration. This has been our second donation to Harvest Hope this year.

Solicitor Clements giving arbitraiton donations to Carla Ammons, Family Support Administrator, for Florence County Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

Supreme Court Restricts Life Sentences for Juveniles

Associated Press Updated May 17, 2010

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that teenagers may not be locked up in prison for life with no chance of parole if they have not killed anyone.

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that teenagers may not be locked up in prison for life with no chance of parole if they have not killed anyone.

By a 5-4 vote Monday, the court says the U.S. Constitution requires that young people serving life sentences must at least be considered for release.

The court ruled in the case of Terrance Graham, who was implicated in armed robberies when he was 16 and 17. Graham, now 22, is in prison in Florida, which holds more than 70 percent of juvenile defendants locked up for life for crimes other than homicide.

"The state has denied him any chance to later demonstrate that he is fit to rejoin society based solely on a non-homicide crime that he committed while he was a child in the eyes of the law," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in his majority opinion. "This the Eighth Amendment does not permit."

Chief Justice John Roberts agreed with Kennedy and the court's four liberal justices about Graham. But Roberts said he does not believe the ruling should extend to all young offenders who are locked up for crimes other than murder.

RULING ON JUVENILE SENTENCING APPLIES TO 3 IN S.C.

By NOELLE PHILLIPS May 25, 2010 - Three S.C. inmates serving life without parole could have their sentences changed after a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling found it is unconstitutional to sentence juveniles to prison for life for anything other than a murder conviction. While the inmates' life sentences of life without parole must be vacated, legal experts said the inmates will not automatically be released from prison. Each will be given an opportunity to have his sentence reviewed in the court system, but it is unclear how or when those reviews will be conducted.

The Supreme Court's opinion, which was based on a Florida case, was issued May 17. Nationally, more than 2,500 people are serving life in prison without the possibility of parole for crimes committed as teenagers, according to the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, a national organization that fights for changes in sentencing laws for juvenile offenders. The Supreme Court's review mentioned one S.C. inmate who could be affected by the ruling, but the S.C. Department of Corrections identified three. All were in their late teens when they were sentenced to life without parole for first-degree burglary convictions, according to the corrections department. All are now adults. They are: Conrad L. Slocumb, 30, who was sentenced in November 1996; Ackeif Pauling, 21, who was sentenced in April 2007; and John Bendarian Bonner, 19, who was sentenced in November 2009. The bottom line is all three are serving unconstitutional sentences, said Robert Dudek, chief appellate defender for the S.C. Commission on Indigent Defense. "If people are under an unconstitutional sentence, that has to go," he said. All three of the S.C. inmates are in various stages of appeals on their cases, Dudek said. The appeals process also will weigh into how their sentences will be changed, he said.

Mark Plowden, a spokesman for the S.C. Attorney General's Office, said each inmate must file a post-conviction relief request and prove he is affected by the ruling. "You don't immediately go to court and make a case," Plowden said. "They must go to court and prove that it needs to be heard."

All three in question in South Carolina were convicted of multiple crimes, but the first-degree burglary charge carried the life without parole sentence.

- http://www.thestate.com/2010/05/26/1302997/ruling-on-juvenile-sentencing.html?story_link=email_msg
You should have received a copy of the Omnibus Crime Reduction Act 2010 in the mail, letting you know that some of our statutes have changed. Most of the changes involve the penalties (such as amount of fine and / or prison time), but some of the statutes names have changed. For example, there is no more Lynching. Instead, it’s replaced with Assault and Battery by a Mob (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degrees). When we are able to get the complete updated statutes, which should be around the first of the year, we will provide them to you. It is important that as Arbitrators you remain informed of these changes in statutes in order that you are able to make the most positive impact you possibly can. And because one change leads to another, our next major project will be to update the Arbitration Manual. As the manual was last updated in 2004, this manual will have all our updated forms in it, and a few other “upgrades” like current fees for counseling and other community services. We invite input from you for additional ideas on what you would like to see in the manual, or even out of it! Come and stop by our offices so we can talk about your ideas.

Not meeting your required 9 hours of follow-up training? Join us for a Detention Center Tour! This counts towards your hours of follow-up training, AND allows you to be more informed about this sanction.

Happy Birthday wishes to:
Gerald Biscup ................. 7/3
Randall Cole .................. 7/5
April Watson ................... 7/12
Renata C. Graham .......... 7/18
Delvin Alston ................. 8/10
John Gable ..................... 8/12

Changes Are A’Comin’!

Viewing Court will help you 1) in Arbitration hearings [when you have to talk about what happens in Court], 2) better understand the differences and similarities of Court and Arbitration, and 3) most importantly, you earn credit toward your nine training hours for the year! Please call Liz to attend!

Many Thanks To...
★ Ms. Delvin Alston for handling 2 hearings, with 2 no shows.
★ Mr. Gerald Biscup for handling 30 hearings, with 6 no shows and 1 pleading not guilty.
★ Mr. Patrick Bucher for handling 23 hearings, with 7 no shows.
★ Mr. Randall Cole for handling 2 hearings.
★ Mr. Larue Coletrain for handling 5 hearings.
★ Mr. Bob Danner for handling 12 hearings, with 4 no shows.
★ Mr. William Flynn for handling 96 hearings, with 30 no shows and 1 pleading not guilty.
★ Mr. John Gable for handling 24 hearings, with 7 no shows.
★ Ms. Renata Graham for handling 3 hearings, with 1 no shows.
★ Mr. Douglas Graves for handling 2 hearings.
★ Mr. Charlie Howle for handling 20 hearings, with 4 no shows.
★ Mr. Jim Lavia for handling 7 hearings, with 2 no shows.
★ Mr. Bob Ridgeway for handling 8 hearings, with 1 pleading not guilty.
★ Ms. Genevive Robinson for handling 17 hearings, with 10 no shows.
★ Mr. John Scaturo for handling 8 hearings, with 1 no shows.
★ Ms. Emma Sellers for handling 1 hearing.
★ Chief Tony Singletary for handling for handling 4 hearings.
★ Dr. Bob Youngblood for handling 11 hearings, with 4 no shows.

Special Thanks to all of our Arbitrators who have taken on the cases and the kids!

January 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010

Close to Home
And now, for outstanding achievement in art, the award goes to... once again... Jimmy Milliner!

Home school graduation.

Juvenile Court Schedule

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<tr>
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<th>Month</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>October 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>October 21</td>
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