
RESOURCE KIT

Graham v. Florida *Sullivan v. Florida*

*Petitioner and Amicus Briefs Summaries · Science on
Adolescent Development · Success Stories: Kids Change ·
Victims' Stories · Facts and Other Resources*

“From a moral standpoint it would be misguided to equate the failings of a minor with those of an adult, for a greater possibility exists that a minor’s character deficiencies will be reformed. Indeed, [t]he relevance of youth as a mitigating factor derives from the fact that the signature qualities of youth are transient; as individuals mature, the impetuosity and recklessness that may dominate in younger years can subside.”

- *Roper v. Simmons*
Opinion of the Court, 2005

“The essential feature of...a life-without-parole sentence is that it imposes a terminal, unchangeable, once-and-for-all judgment upon the whole life of a human being and declares that human being forever unfit to be a part of civil society. Roper [v. Simmons] understood and explained why such a judgment cannot rationally be passed on children below a certain age. They are unfinished products, human works-in-progress. They stand at a peculiarly vulnerable moment in their lives. Their potential for growth and change is enormous. Almost all of them will outgrow criminal behavior.”

- *Sullivan v. Florida*
Petitioner’s Brief

“The unconstitutionality of Graham’s sentence is confirmed by the fact that he is one of a handful of juveniles, in any State, who has been sentenced to life without parole for a non-homicide offense...”

- *Graham v. Florida*
Petitioner’s Brief

Table of Contents

- I. Petitioner and *Amicus* Briefs Summaries
- II. Science on Adolescent Development
- III. Success Stories: Kids Change
- IV. Victims' Stories
- V. Facts and Other Resources