



PRESS ADVISORY
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U.S. Court of Appeals Will Address Constitutionality of Death Penalty

Arguments Set for Monday

Attorneys, Legal Experts Available To Discuss Case and Its Implications

The constitutionality of the federal death penalty will come into question on Monday, October 21, 2002, when arguments are heard before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in Manhattan.

The historic case before the court, *United States v. Quinones* is an appeal by the U.S. Attorney of a lower court ruling by federal judge Jed S. Rakoff who declared the federal death penalty unconstitutional on July 1, 2002. In his ruling, Judge Rakoff stated that it is "fully foreseeable that in enforcing the death penalty, a meaningful number of innocent people will be executed who otherwise would eventually be able to prove their innocence."

Members of the Quinones legal team and national death penalty experts are available to discuss the specifics of the case as well as the broader implications raised by recent revelations about innocence and its effect on the capital punishment system.

Interviews are available by contacting: Laura Burstein, 202-557-7584.

In recent months, other federal judges, including justices of the United States Supreme Court, have expressed concerns about the reliability of the capital punishment system and the increased risk of wrongful convictions and executions.

A summary of the case and the *Quinones* brief will be posted later today at:
www.deathpenaltyinfo.org

Arguments are scheduled for 10 a.m.* on Monday, October 21, 2002 at the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 40 Center Street, Foley Square, Courtroom # 1705, 17th Floor.

***To confirm time: Clerk of the Court phone #212-857-8500.**

The Justice Project (TJP) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization which addresses issues of social justice here and abroad. The Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform, an initiative of TJP, is a national movement focused on addressing flaws in the American justice system. The Justice Project is affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation.

Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform