



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

- Who:** Special Panel of the Michigan Court of Appeals including: Judge Douglas B. Shapiro, Presiding; Judge Jane E. Markey; Judge Patrick M. Meter; Judge Jane M. Beckering; Judge Cynthia Diane Stephens; Judge Michael J. Kelly; and Judge Michael J. Riordan
- What:** Pursuant to [MCR 7.215\(1\)](#), the Special Panel will convene for oral argument in *People of MI v Kenya Ali Hyatt* to resolve the conflict between this case and *People v Skinner*.
- Where:** Second Floor, Michigan Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa, Lansing
- When:** Wednesday, May 18, 10 a.m.
- Why:** From the Court of Appeals [Published Opinion](#), Case # 325741 – “A jury convicted Kenya Ali Hyatt of first-degree felony murder, conspiracy to commit armed robbery, armed robbery, and felony-firearm. Because Hyatt was 17 years old when the offense occurred, the trial court held a *Miller* hearing (*Miller v Alabama*) to determine Hyatt’s sentence. It ultimately sentenced Hyatt to life without the possibility of parole for the murder conviction, 210 months to 40 years’ imprisonment for each of the conspiracy to commit armed robbery and armed robbery convictions, and two years’ imprisonment for the felony-firearm conviction. On appeal, Hyatt argues: 1) a police officer impermissibly encroached on the province of the jury when he identified Hyatt in a surveillance video; 2) the trial court erred in failing to instruct the jury on accident; and, 3) his sentence must be vacated because the determination of whether a juvenile should receive a life without parole sentence must be made by a jury. In light of the decision in [People v Skinner](#), issued August 20, 2015, Hyatt must be resentenced so that a jury may determine whether he should receive life in prison without the possibility of parole. We otherwise affirm Hyatt’s convictions and sentences. However, were it not for *Skinner*, we would affirm the sentencing court’s decision to sentence Hyatt to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. We therefore declare a conflict with *Skinner* pursuant to MCR 7.215(J)(2).”

For media interested in video or audio recording of oral argument, please see the [link](#) to *Request and Notice for Film and Electronic Media Coverage of Court Proceedings*.