

Life Without Parole

**LANDMARK COURT CASES INVOLVING YOUNGER OFFENDERS
AND THE RESULTING IMPACT ON THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**



Presentation by
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Recent Michigan Supreme Court Cases Make Headlines



U.S. and Michigan Supreme Court Cases Change the Legal Landscape

Miller v. Alabama (2012), U.S.S.C.

- Landmark case that started it all
- Ruled mandatory JLWOP is Unconstitutional under the 8th Amendment's prohibition on cruel & unusual punishment

Montgomery v. Louisiana (2016), U.S.S.C.

- Miller v. Alabama is retroactive
 - applies to all previously sentenced defendants

Michigan Legislature Gets Involved

After Miller, state legislature enacts MCL 769.25a

- Sets forth statutory and procedural requirements for resentencing
 - Prosecutor must notify Circuit Court of all defendants entitled to resentencing
 - Prosecutor must motion the Court to keep defendants in prison without parole; only most egregious cases
 - For all other cases, Court must resentence to a term of years between 25 – 60 years.
- **We had 26 juvenile cases that needed to be resentenced.**

Michigan Supreme Court Sets New Standards

People v. Parks (2022)

- Extended Miller to include 18-year-olds.
 - Side note: Parks was a 2016 murder case in Genesee Co.

People v. Poole (April 1, 2025)

- Parks is retroactive
- All 18-year-olds previously sentenced to LWOP are entitled to resentencing in line with MCL 769.25a

➤ **We have 32 cases involving 18-year-olds**
- 7 have been resentenced so far

Most recent cases making headlines on April 10, 2025


People v. Czarnecki

- **Mandatory LWOP for 19-year-olds is unconstitutional on grounds of cruel & unusual punishment**

People v. Taylor

- **Mandatory LWOP for 20-year-olds is unconstitutional on grounds of cruel & unusual punishment**
 - **Note: This was a 2016 case out of Genesee Co.**

➤ **MDOC indicates we will have 44 cases in Genesee County**

A pair of brass scales of justice is shown against a blue background. The scales are tilted, with the right pan higher than the left. The pans are empty. The text "Lessons Learned Since Miller v. Alabama and Looking Ahead" is overlaid in yellow.

Lessons Learned Since Miller v. Alabama and Looking Ahead