



OFFICE OF THE  
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District Attorney Jan Scully today responded to the United States Supreme Court decision on murder sentences for juveniles. In *Miller v. Alabama*, the Court ruled life without parole sentences for juvenile murderers are unconstitutional when the sentence is mandatory. Scully, who is also the current president of the National District Attorneys Association, stated: “The Court’s decision preserved Juvenile Life Without Parole (JLWOP) sentences for murder when imposed within the discretion of the sentencing court. The Supreme Court’s 5-4 decision states that a mandatory sentencing scheme is improper for juveniles, who must be allowed to show mitigating factors based on their age. In California, life without parole is not mandatory for juveniles, so the decision will have no effect here. In those states this decision does affect, NDAA will be working closely with prosecutors and victims regarding the issue of retroactivity.”

District Attorney Scully went on to say, “The most troubling aspect of Justice Kagan’s opinion is the reference to cold blooded murderers as children, who should be excused because of their age and lack of judgment. Americans under the age of 18 do not commonly carjack a mother and her two young children and shoot all three in the head, or slaughter their parents and grandparents, or kill a police officer with intent and premeditation, as gang member Jimmy Siackasorn did here in Sacramento killing Deputy Sheriff Vu Nguyen. The sentence of life without parole, for juveniles and adults alike, is only used after careful consideration, in the interest of justice, and on behalf of victims.”