

Roper v Simmons



By Leslie Maya and Juliana Mendoza

8th Amendment

- Roper v Simmons was a case involving the 8th amendment
- The 8th amendment states that “excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted.

14th Amendment

- The fourteenth amendment addresses citizenship rights and equal protection of the laws through the due process clause and equal protection clause.
- Through the 14th amendment the imposition of death penalty on offenders who are under 18 when a crime is committed was forbidden in the state.

What we know...

- Simmons planned and committed capital murder at the age of 17.
- Sentenced to death soon after turning 18.
- The death penalty for Simmons was considered “cruel and unusual punishment”
- A series of appeals to state and federal courts were presented, but they were all rejected.
- Case went up to Supreme Court.
- He pleaded guilty

What happened...

Simmons burglarize and murdered a person. He entered the victim's home kidnapped her and bound her with duct tape and electrical cord and threw her into a river.



Outcome

- Simmons lost the case but his death sentence was set aside and he was resentenced to “life imprisonment without eligibility for probation, parole, or release except by act of the governor.”

Citations

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/03-633.ZS.html>

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/u-s-supreme-court-roper-v-simmons-no-03-633>