



**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ORAL ARGUMENT CASE SUMMARY**



**STATE OF ARIZONA v. JAMES LYNN STYERS
CR-90-0356-AP**

PARTIES:

Appellant: James Lynn Styers

Appellee: The State of Arizona

FACTS:

James Styers was convicted in 1990 for the murder of four-year-old Christopher Milke. The trial court sentenced him to death. This Court affirmed Styers' conviction and sentence in 1993. *State v. Styers*, 177 Ariz. 104, 865 P.2d 765 (1993).

In 1999, Styers petitioned the United States District Court for the District of Arizona for a writ of habeas corpus. The district court denied that petition. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed and granted the writ, finding that this Court had improperly refused to consider Styers' post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a mitigating circumstance in its 1993 review of Styers' sentence. *Styers v. Schriro*, 547 F.3d 1026, 1035-36 (2008).

To correct this constitutional error, the State petitioned this Court to conduct a new independent review of Styers' sentence.

ISSUES:

Is the mitigation evidence, including the evidence of Styers' PTSD, sufficiently substantial to warrant leniency in light of the existing aggravation?

Definitions:

Writ of Habeas Corpus: A legal action in which a prisoner seeks relief from an unlawful punishment. The writ is commonly used to review the judicial process employed to convict the prisoner.

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