

Controversial U.S. Supreme Court rule is challenged in court

Supreme Court rule is described as "money can buy access to the courts," in court filings with the High Court. Visit [The Register](#) for further details.

Lakeland, FL (PRWEB) April 03, 2015



(Fri. 03 April 2015) Case Update: High Court enters odd ruling, upholding "money can buy access to courts" rule - Petition for rehearing filed with court, "Original + 40," instead of usual 'O+10' required of In Forma Pauperis, so clerks, Justices, libraries, & press can have easy access. Case documents are available at [The Register](#) in front-page news.

--End of Update-Original press release follows:

RULE 37.1 of the U.S. Supreme Court, which does not permit non-attorneys to file such briefs ("An amicus curiae brief may be filed only by an attorney admitted to practice before this Court as provided in Rule 5.") is being challenged in the High Court by Register Editor-in-Chief, Gordon W. Watts, who, several years ago, lost a 4-3 split decision on behalf of Theresa 'Terri' Schiavo.

The case is set for review Friday, March 27, 2015 by the Justices:

<http://www.supremecourt.gov/Search.aspx?FileName=/docketfiles/14-8744.htm>. Watts is arguing in his filing that, since RULE 37.3(a) of the U.S. Supreme Court permits that: "An amicus curiae brief in a case before the Court for oral argument may be filed if accompanied by the written consent of all parties...", then Watts' brief would normally be "automatically accepted." As noted on The Court's Official Docket, "Consent to the filing of amicus curiae briefs, in support of either party or of neither party" was filed with the court by both petitioners and respondents in one case: <http://www.supremecourt.gov/Search.aspx?FileName=/docketfiles/14-571.htm>.

"A petitioner or respondent may submit to the Clerk a letter granting blanket consent to amicus curiae briefs, stating that the party consents to the filing of amicus curiae briefs in support of either or of neither party. The Clerk will note all notices of blanket consent on the docket.": RULE 37.2(a). However, unlike a federal appeals court, which permitted Watts to file an amicus brief (see files on the right), RULE 37.1 of the Supreme Court doesn't allow non-attorneys to file such briefs: "An amicus curiae brief may be filed only by an attorney admitted to practice before this Court as provided in Rule 5."

Many people, including the court's own Justices, have said that people have "no" automatic right of review by the Supreme Court, but as shown above, that is not true in all cases. Watts is taking issue with the case where a person wants to file a 'friend of the court' brief as Watts has been allowed to do, but one simply can't afford a lawyer who is a member of the Supreme Court bar. The only thing stopping Watts from filing was the fact that he couldn't afford to "buy access" through a high-money 'Big Law' lawyer. He also believes that the fact that his filings took hard shots at both pro- and anti-gay advocates did not help his chances at finding a lawyer willing to file for him.

The court did not find any fault with Watts' brief, and, in fact, actually docketed it in error for a short period of time, as he showed in the Appendix of his petition with the court.

Watts desires to file a friend of the court brief in the gay marriage cases before the court because he feels that the parties involved have overlooked a solution that would work for both sides. That brief is more fully described in this concurrent release:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2015/03/prweb12608035.htm>

Mr. Watts was a high-profile litigant in the recent 'Terri Schiavo' lawsuit, almost winning in court on her behalf:

In Re: GORDON WAYNE WATTS (as next friend of THERESA MARIE 'TERRI' SCHIAVO), No. SC03-2420 (Fla. Feb.23, 2005), denied 4-3 on rehearing. (Watts got 42.7% of his panel)

<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2005/2/03-2420reh.pdf>

In Re: JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, ET AL. v. MICHAEL SCHIAVO, GUARDIAN: THERESA SCHIAVO, No. SC04-925 (Fla. Oct.21, 2004), denied 7-0 on rehearing. (Bush got 0.0% of his panel before the same court)

<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2004/10/04-925reh.pdf>

Schiavo ex rel. Schindler v. Schiavo ex rel. Schiavo, 403 F.3d 1223, 2005 WL 648897 (11th Cir. Mar.23, 2005),



Lady Justice ponders unjust rules: "can money buy access to The High Court?"

“ Lady Justice ponders unjust rules: "can money buy access to The High Court?" ”

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Attachments

 (Jan. 06, 2014) [Notice of Court Action](#)
 (Jan. 06, 2014) [Order granting motion to file amended brief](#)

 [Amicus Curiae of Gordon Wayne Watts in Gay Marriage cases, April 01, 2015, most current revision \(PDF\)](#)

[Amicus Curiae of Gordon Wayne Watts in Gay Marriage cases, April 01, 2015, most current revision \(*.doc Word format\)](#)

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 [Petition for the Extraordinary Writ of Habeas Corpus: March 2015 \(In re: Watts - 14-8744\)](#)

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 [Supplemental Brief](#)
 Supplement to the Pet. for Habeas Corpus (In Re: Watts - 14-8744)

 [2nd Supplemental Brief](#)
 2nd Supplement to the Pet. for Habeas Corpus (In Re: Watts - 14-8744)

denied 2-1 on appeal. (Terri Schiavo's own blood family only got 33.3% of their panel on the Federal Appeals level) <http://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/files/200511556.pdf>

You may visit The Register: <http://GordonWatts.com> or <http://GordonWayneWatts.com> for further details.



[Petition for Rehearing - 14-8744 - In re: Gordon Wayne Watts \(Habeas Corpus\)](#)

[Petition for Rehearing - 14-8744 - In re: Gordon Wayne Watts \(Habeas Corpus\)](#)

[Gordon's IFP paperwork for March 2015 filings \(In re: Watts - 14-8744\)](#)

[Gordon's IFP paperwork for March 2015 filings \(In re: Watts - 14-8744\)](#)



Terri Schiavo file photo

Contrasted photo of Terri Schiavo

[A brief filed by Watts in the Terri Schiavo case: see release for details...](#)

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The B

Last updated: Friday, 03 April 2015 at 12:08pm, E.S.T. Sign [this petition](#) by Robert Applebaum about H.R. 4170, The Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2012, asking that Student Loan borrowers have bankruptcy protection returned -just like every other borrower has. (They are not totally liberal, as shown in [this email](#) to U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX-21st), the chair of the House Judiciary Committee.) Read this first: "[Why College Prices Keep Rising](#)".

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[Lady Justice Ponders Odd Ruling](#) (Fri. 03 April 2015) **Case Update: High Court enters odd ruling, upholding "money can buy access to courts" rule** - Petition for rehearing filed with court, "Original + 40," instead of usual 'O+10' required of *In Forma Pauperis*, so clerks, Justices, libraries, & press can have easy access. Case docs & court's docket links

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