Supreme Court of Florida

PRENTICE MATHIS,

Petitioner,

VS.

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Respondent.

No. 89,358

[April 3, 1997]

HARDING, J.

We have for review a decision passing on the following question certified to be of great public importance:

IS <u>STATE V. GRAY</u>, 654 So. 2d 552 (Fla. 1995) RETROACTIVE?

Mathis v. State, 680 So.2d 633, 634 (Fla. 4th DCA 1996). We have jurisdiction. Art. V, § 3(b)(4), Fla. Const.

In <u>Gray</u> we abolished the crime of attempted felony murder in this state. We expressly defined the scope of application in that decision: "This decision must be applied to all cases pending on direct review or not yet final." <u>Gray</u>, 654 So. 2d at 554. In <u>State v. Woodley</u>, No. 88,116 (Fla. Apr. 3, 1997), we expressly held that <u>Gray</u> does not apply retroactively to those cases where the convictions had already become final before the issuance of the opinion.

Accordingly, we answer the question in the negative and approve the decision of the district court.

It is so ordered.

KOGAN, C.J., and OVERTON, SHAW, GRIMES, WELLS and ANSTEAD, JJ., concur

NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES TO FILE REHEARING MOTION AND, IF FILED, DETERMINED.

Application for Review of the Decision of the District Court of Appeal - Certified Great Public Importance

Fourth District - Case No. 96-2163

(Broward County)

Alan H. Schreiber, Public Defender and Donald J. Cannarozzi, Assistant Public Defender, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, Fort Lauderdale, Florida,

for Petitioner

Robert A. Butterworth, Attorney General and Melynda L. Melear, Assistant Attorney General, West Palm Beach, Florida,

for Respondent