Supreme Court of Florida

No. SC95541

STATE OF FLORIDA, Petitioner,

vs.

TYRONE COWART, Respondent.

[June 22, 2000]

PER CURIAM.

We have for review the decision in <u>State v. Cowart</u>, 24 Fla. L. Weekly D1085 (Fla. 2d DCA Apr. 28, 1999), which the court certified to be in conflict with the opinion in <u>Woods v. State</u>, 740 So. 2d 20 (Fla. 1st DCA 1999), and <u>McKnight v. State</u>, 727 So. 2d 314 (Fla. 3d DCA 1999). We have jurisdiction. <u>See</u> art. V, § 3(b)(4), Fla. Const.

We recently approved the First District's decision in <u>Woods</u>, holding that the Act, as properly interpreted by the First District, does not violate separation of powers, and rejecting other constitutional challenges to the Act. <u>See State v. Cotton</u>, SC94996 &

SC95281 (Fla. June 15, 2000). Accordingly, for the reasons expressed in <u>Cotton</u>, we quash the Second District's decision in this case, and remand for further proceedings consistent with this opinion. Because it appears that the respondent entered a plea of guilty based upon the trial court's indication that respondent, upon such plea, would not be sentenced pursuant to the Act, upon remand to the trial court, respondent shall have the right to withdraw his guilty plea.

It is so ordered.

HARDING, C.J., and SHAW, WELLS, ANSTEAD, PARIENTE and LEWIS, JJ., concur. QUINCE, J., dissents with an opinion.

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

QUINCE, J., dissenting.

I dissent for the reasons stated in my dissent in State v. Cotton, Nos. SC94996 &

SC95281 (Fla. June 15, 2000).

Application for Review of the Decision of the District Court of Appeal - Certified Direct Conflict of Decisions

Second District - Case No. 2D98-03185

(Pinellas County)

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for Petitioner

Judith Ellis, St. Petersburg, Florida,

for Respondent