

Remarks of Chief Justice Kay McFarland
Montoy v. State of Kansas, Case No. 92,032

July 28, 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen: The release of this opinion directly from the Kansas Supreme Courtroom is a first. That is appropriate, for this case is truly one of a kind. This procedure gives you the opportunity personally to view the sheer volume of materials filed in this case for our consideration.

I have been a member of the Kansas Supreme Court for almost 30 years. Without doubt, this is the most significant case to come before the Court in my tenure. The issues presented are numerous and complex, and their resolution is having and will continue to have far-reaching effects. Our decision today, dismissing this appeal, warrants more than just the routine filing and distribution process.

The history of this appeal, our prior holdings, and the opinion filed today are too complex to summarize in this brief statement. Therefore, I urge you to read the Court's opinion and the lengthy summary prepared by Ron Keefover, Information Officer.

At this stage in a case, it is customary to speak of who are the winners and who are the losers. This case is not about winners and losers – it is about the children of Kansas. They will be better educated and better prepared to meet the challenges of our rapidly changing society. Kansas will be the ultimate beneficiary.