Federal Court Ruling: Death Penalty Appeals Can Be Fast-Tracked

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - Death penalty appeals could begin to move faster through the justice system in the wake of a federal appeals court ruling.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has cleared the way for states to fast-track inmate appeals through the court system. The ruling rejected a challenge to fast-tracking.

Fast-tracking requires the parties to the appeal -- inmate, lawyers, and courts -- to rule swiftly. Supporters say fast-tracking gives victims justice in a timely manner. Critics say fast-tracking would unfairly pressure those involved.