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**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ISSUES ORDER IN PENDING CAPITAL  
CASES**

The Supreme Court of Illinois issued an order Wednesday covering 54 death penalty cases which were pending before the Court when former Gov. George Ryan commuted death sentences.

The order said lawyers on both sides of each case have 30 days to file any motions they deem appropriate in the wake of Mr. Ryan's commutations. The motions may include, but are not limited to, whether the Supreme Court would have continued jurisdiction in the matters.

Under the Illinois Constitution, cases in which the death penalty is imposed are appealed directly from the Circuit Court to the Supreme Court as a matter of right. Typically, the appeals also concern issues other than sentence.

The orders issued in the individual cases Wednesday are similar to an order the Court issued January 14 in the death penalty case of Gabriel Solache. Oral argument in the case was scheduled that morning before the Supreme Court. After meeting in conference, however, the Court issued an order from the bench giving attorneys in both sides of the case 30 days from that day to file whatever motions they deem appropriate in light of former Gov. Ryan's commutations.

The 54 cases before the Court include the Solache case. They include 14 cases which had been argued and are under advisement by the Court, six cases on the re-hearing docket, 28 cases which were in various stages of being briefed by the lawyers in advance of oral argument and six other cases in which briefing has been stayed for various reasons.