

## Court finds no race bias in Fla. death sentence

ATLANTA (AP) -- A federal appeals court panel says it finds no constitutional basis to overturn the death sentence of a Florida inmate who claims he was tried for a capital crime because he is white and his victims were black.

John D. Freeman was condemned for the killing of Leonard Collier, who was beaten on the head with his pistol after interrupting a burglary at his Jacksonville home in 1986 - three weeks after Alvin Epps was stabbed to death during a burglary at his home.

Freeman accused prosecutors of pursuing the death penalty to "get their numbers up on whites killing blacks."

Three judges of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed Thursday with lower courts that Freeman failed to show violations of the Constitution or federal law.

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The court's opinion can be accessed at:  
<http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/ops/200711658.pdf>