

Jimmy Ryce killer appeals again to Fla. high court

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A Cuban immigrant sentenced to death for sexually assaulting and killing 9-year-old Jimmy Ryce 14 years ago is appealing again.

The Florida Supreme Court heard oral arguments Thursday. The justices denied an initial appeal from Juan Carlos Chavez.

His lawyer, Andrea Norgard, argued a defense witness was erroneously prevented from testifying. She said the witness is an expert on differences between the U.S. and Cuban legal systems.

Assistant Attorney General Scott Brown told the justice the witness lacked credentials to be an expert.

Jimmy was kidnapped near his home in rural Miami-Dade County. His name is on a law that keeps sexual predators in custody after completing their sentences if a danger to the community.