

# Justices: No new trial for killer of Fla. teen

*The Associated Press*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - A death row inmate who ordered the killing of a teenager in a drug deal that went bad will get a new sentencing hearing, but he will not be retried.

The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously reversed a trial judge's decision to give Faunce Levon Pearce a new trial but agreed to vacate his death penalty.

The justices ruled his lawyers were ineffective during the penalty phase of his trial. They failed to research his background or have him examined by mental health experts. Psychologists now say he is mentally ill and suffers from brain damage.

The 46-year-old Pearce ordered another man to shoot the victim, 17-year-old Robert Crawford III, and another teen who survived. They were left for dead along a Pasco County road in 1999. The shooter is serving a life sentence.