

Falls City Man Challenging Nebraska Death Sentence Rules

(AP/KLZA)-- A Falls City man sentenced to death for his role in the December 31, 1993 slaying of Teena Brandon, Lisa Lambert and Phillip DeVine at a farmhouse south of Humboldt is challenging Nebraska's three-judge method for determining death sentences.

The Omaha World Herald reports that attorney's for John Lotter argue that he had a right to have jurors, not judges, decide his fate when he was given the death sentence in 1996. The attorney's cite a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year that struck down Florida's death penalty process, saying it gave too much power to judges to make the ultimate decision.

In Nebraska three judges determine if a person convicted of murder receives a death sentence.

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