Court of Appeals
of the State of Georgia

ATLANTA, January 12, 2017

The Court of Appeals hereby passes the following order:

A17A0931. CRAIG JOHNSON v. THE STATE.

Craig Johnson was convicted of murder and felony murder and sentenced to life imprisonment without parole. He appealed to this Court from the trial court's denial of his motion for new trial. We, however, lack jurisdiction.

Under our Constitution, the Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction over "[a]ll cases in which a sentence of death was imposed or could be imposed." Ga. Const. of 1983, Art. VI, Sec. VI, Par. III (8). Because a penalty of death can be imposed for the crimes of murder and felony murder, jurisdiction is proper in the Supreme Court. See OCGA § 16-5-1 (a), (c), (e) (1); *Neal v. State*, 290 Ga. 563, 572 (722 SE2d 765) (2012) (Hunstein, C. J., concurring); see also *State v. Thornton*, 253 Ga. 524, 524 (1) (322 SE2d 711) (1984) (directing this Court to transfer "all cases in which either a sentence of death or of life imprisonment has been imposed upon conviction of murder"). Accordingly, Johnson's appeal is hereby TRANSFERRED to the Supreme Court for disposition.

Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia
Clerk's Office, Atlanta, 01/12/2017
I certify that the above is a true extract from the minutes of the Court of Appeals of Georgia.
Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto affixed the day and year last above written.

Stephen E. Castlen, *Clerk.*