

No. \_\_\_\_\_

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IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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JOAQUIN S. RAMS – PETITIONER

vs.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA – RESPONDENT

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ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO  
THE SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA

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**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS**

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Counsel for Petitioner, Mr. Joaquin S. Rams

\*Members, Bar of the United States Supreme Court

## **MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS**

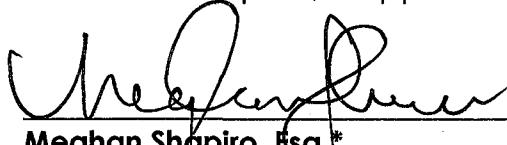
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Mr. Joaquin Rams, Petitioner, asks leave to file the attached petition for a writ of certiorari without prepayment of costs and to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

Petitioner has been deemed indigent and provided court-appointed counsel by the Commonwealth of Virginia for all proceedings in this case.

Undersigned counsel Meghan Shapiro was appointed to represent Mr. Rams in direct appeal proceedings by the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, and has represented Mr. Rams in that capacity in proceedings before the Court of Appeals of Virginia and the Supreme Court of Virginia. She was appointed pursuant to Virginia Code Section 19.2-159. See Va. Code sec. 19.2-159(2) ("[T]he said court shall appoint competent counsel to represent the accused in the proceeding against him, including an appeal, if any, until relieved or replaced by other counsel.").

The Sentencing Order (Final Order), which includes the order of appointment for Mr. Rams's appeal, is appended to this Motion.



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VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY  
FEDERAL INFORMATION PROCESSING  
STANDARDS CODE: 153

Hearing Date: August 1, 2017  
Judge Designate: Randy I. Bellows

Commonwealth of Virginia

v.

JOAQUIN SHADOW RAMS, SR,  
(A.K.A.: JOHN ANTHONY RAMIREZ, JR.;  
JOHN ANTHONY RAMIREZ;  
JUQUIN ANTHONY RAMS;  
JOAQUIN SHADOW RAMS;  
JOAQUIN S. RAMS)

Defendant

**SENTENCING ORDER**

The cases came before the Court for sentencing of the defendant, who appeared in person with counsel, Christopher Leibig, Joni Robin, and Tracey Lenox. The Attorneys for the Commonwealth, Paul B. Ebert and James Willett were present.

On April 13, 2017, the defendant was found guilty of the following:

CASE NUMBER	OFFENSE DESCRIPTION AND INDICATOR (F/M)	OFFENSE DATE	CODE SECTION
CR13002303-00	CAPITAL MURDER (Felony)	10/20/2012	18.2-31(12)
CR14003686-00	ATTEMPTED FALSE PRETENSES (Felony)	09/15/2011	18.2-178

**Presentence Report.** The presentence report was considered and is ordered filed as a part of the record in accordance with the provisions of Section 19.2-299 of the Code of Virginia.

**Commonwealth's Evidence.** The Commonwealth introduced evidence and rested.

**Defendant's Evidence.** The defendant rested without presenting any evidence.

Before pronouncing the sentences, the Court inquired if the defendant desired to make a statement and if the defendant desired to advance any reason why judgment should not be pronounced.

**Sentencing.** The Court sentences the defendant to:

**Incarceration** with the **Virginia Department of Corrections** for the term of:

**CR13002303-00 - Life Imprisonment without the Possibility of Parole and a fine in the amount of one hundred thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars**

**CR14003686-00 - ten (10) years**

**for a total sentence of Life Imprisonment without the Possibility of Parole plus ten (10) years; and a fine in the amount of one hundred thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars.**

These sentences shall run consecutively with each other and to all other sentences.

**Post-Incarceration/Post-Release Supervision.** In addition to the above sentence of incarceration, the Court imposes an additional term of **three (3) years of post-release incarceration.** This term is suspended and the defendant shall be subject to a period of **post-release supervision of three (3) years**, which is to commence upon release from incarceration. The defendant shall comply with all the rules and requirements set by the Virginia Parole Board.

**Court Costs.** The defendant shall pay court costs.

**Judgment For Court Costs.** The Court orders the Clerk of this Court to docket a judgment against the defendant for the court costs.

**DNA Analysis.** The Court Orders that, prior to being released, the defendant shall submit to the taking of a blood sample for DNA analysis pursuant to Section 19.2-310.2 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, et seq.

**Right to Appeal.** The Court proceeded to advise the defendant of his right to appeal, including the right to note defendant's appeal to the appropriate Appellate Court, with due and timely written notice to the Clerk of this Court, and the right to have an attorney to represent the defendant or to have an attorney appointed to represent the defendant and to have the attorney's fees, costs and expenses in connection with any appeal paid for in the event the defendant is financially unable to pay same.

**Court Appointed Attorney For Appeal.** Upon the representations of the defendant that the defendant was unable to retain counsel, the

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Court appoints Meghan Shapiro and Christopher Leibig to represent the defendant upon appeal.

**Cash Appearance Bond.** In the event a cash appearance bond has been posted in this matter, the Court orders that the cash appearance bond posted be returned or, with the consent of the payer, be applied to any fine and/or costs.

**Attorney Certification.** The Court certifies that at all times during the trial the defendant was personally present, as was defense counsel who capably represented the defendant.

**Credit For Time Served.** The defendant shall be given credit for time spent in confinement pursuant to Section 53.1-187 of the Code of Virginia.

It is further ORDERED that the defendant is remanded to jail to await transfer to the Department of Corrections.

ENTERED: 8/11/17

*Randy I. Bellows*

HONORABLE RANDY I. BELLows,  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE DESINGATE

**DEFENDANT IDENTIFICATION:**

Alias: JOHN ANTHONY RAMIREZ, JR.  
JOHN ANTHONY RAMIREZ;  
JUQUIN ANTHONY RAMS;  
JOAQUIN SHADOW RAMS;  
JOAQUIN S. RAMS

SSN: [REDACTED]-3317

DOB: [REDACTED]/1972 Sex: M

**SENTENCING SUMMARY:**

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August 1, 2017  
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TOTAL SENTENCE IMPOSED: Life without the Possibility of Parole plus ten (10) years, and a fine in the amount of one hundred thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars

TOTAL SENTENCE SUSPENDED: NONE

**FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY:**

Virginia Crime Code: MUR-0927-F1, FRD-2743-A9