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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Summary of Cases Accepted During the Week of July 31, 2006**

*[This news release is issued to inform the public and the press of cases that the Supreme Court has accepted and of their general subject matter. The statement of the issue or issues in each case set out below does not necessarily reflect the view of the court, or define the specific issues that will be addressed by the court.]*

**#06-87 *Bullock v. Philip Morris USA, Inc.*, S143850.** (B164398, B160983; 138 Cal.App.4th 1029, mod. 139 Cal.App.4th 588a; Los Angeles County Superior Court; BC249171.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed the judgment in a civil action. This case includes the following issues: (1) Did the ratio of approximately 33-to-1 between the punitive damages award and the compensatory damages violate due process? (2) Should the jury have been instructed that it could not impose punitive damages to punish the defendant for the effects of its conduct on non-parties? The court ordered briefing deferred pending the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Philip Morris USA v. Williams* (Or. 2005) 127 P.3d 1165, cert. granted May 30, 2006, No. 05-1256, \_\_ U.S. \_\_ [126 S.Ct. 2329], or further order of this court.

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