

Court lets stand teen sentence for pushing

by UPI

TEXARKANA, Texas -- A Texas appeals court refused to overturn the conviction of a black teenager sentenced to youth prison for pushing a high school hall monitor.

The case of Shaquanda Cotton drew national attention after it was revealed that just three months before she was sentenced to prison by Lamar County Judge Churck Superville, the judge handed probation to a 14-year-old white girl convicted of a more serious crime, The Chicago Tribune reported Friday.

In a decision Thursday, the Sixth Appellate District Court in Texarkana declined to issue an opinion on the racial dimensions of the case or the proportionality of Cotton's sentence of up to seven years in prison.

Instead it denied Cotton's appeal of her 2006 conviction for assault on a public servant and turned aside her claim that she received ineffective assistance from her defense lawyer.

Cotton was released from jail in late March after serving one year of her sentence.

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