

# The Burger Court Opinion Writing Database

*Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs v. Rasmussen*  
440 U.S. 29 (1979)

Paul J. Wahlbeck, George Washington University  
James F. Spriggs, II, Washington University in St. Louis  
Forrest Maltzman, George Washington University



Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF  
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

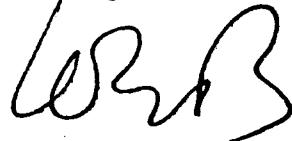
February 1, 1979

Re: (77-1465 - Director v. Rasmussen  
(  
(77-1491 - Geo Control v. Rasmussen

Dear Bill:

I join.

Regards,



Mr. Justice Rehnquist

Copies to the Conference

Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE Wm. J. BRENNAN, JR.

January 19, 1979

RE: Nos. 77-1465 & 77-1491 Director, Office of  
Workers' Compensation Programs and GEO Control  
v. Rasmussen, et al.

Dear Bill:

I agree.

Sincerely,



Mr. Justice Rehnquist

cc: The Conference

Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE POTTER STEWART

January 18, 1979

Re: No. 77-1465 & 77-1491 - Director, Workers'  
Compensation Programs v. Rasmussen

Dear Bill:

I am glad to join your opinion for the  
Court.

Sincerely yours,

C.S.  
1/

Mr. Justice Rehnquist

Copies to the Conference

Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE BYRON R. WHITE

January 19, 1979

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Re: Nos. 77-1465 & 77-1491: Director,  
Office of Workers' Compensation  
Programs, US Department of Labor  
v. Rasmussen; and Geo Control, Inc.,  
and New Hampshire Insurance Co.  
v. Rasmussen

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Dear Bill,

I agree.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Justice Rehnquist

Copies to the Conference

Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL

February 1, 1979

Re: 77-1465 - Director v. Rasmussen and  
77-1491 - Geo Control v. Rasmussen

Dear Bill:

Please join me.

Sincerely,

*JM.*

T.M.

Mr. Justice Rehnquist

cc: The Conference

Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE HARRY A. BLACKMUN

January 22, 1979

Re: No. 77-1465 - Director v. Rasmussen  
No. 77-1491 - Geo. Control, Inc. v. Rasmussen

Dear Bill:

Please join me.

Sincerely,



Mr. Justice Rehnquist

cc: The Conference

Supreme Court of the United States

Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE LEWIS F. POWELL, JR.

January 18, 1979

No. 14-1465 Director v. Rasmussen

Dear Bill:

Please show at the end of the next draft of your opinion that I took no part in the decision of this case.

Sincerely,

*Lewis Powell*

Mr. Justice Rehnquist

lfp/ss

cc: The Conference

✓  
W R  
W  
Please send me

To: The Chief Justice  
Mr. Justice Brennan  
Mr. Justice Stewart  
Mr. Justice White  
Mr. Justice Marshall  
Mr. Justice Blackmun  
Mr. Justice Powell  
Mr. Justice Stevens

From: Mr. Justice Rehnquist

Circulated: 16 JAN 1979

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1st DRAFT

## SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Nos. 77-1465 AND 77-1491

Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, United States Department of Labor, Petitioner,  
77-1465 *v.* Genevieve O. Rasmussen et al.  
Geo Control, Incorporated and New Hampshire Insurance Company, Petitioners,  
77-1491 *v.* Genevieve O. Rasmussen et al.

On Writs of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

[January —, 1979]

MR. JUSTICE REHNQUIST delivered the opinion of the Court.

In May 1973 William Rasmussen was employed as a hydrologist by Geo Control, Inc., which was under contract with the United States to perform work in South Vietnam. Rasmussen was fatally injured during the course of his employment when the vehicle in which he was riding was blown up by a land mine. His employment was within the coverage of the Defense Base Act, 42 U. S. C. § 1651 *et seq.*, which incorporates the provisions of the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, 33 U. S. C. § 901 *et seq.* (Act). It is undisputed that Rasmussen's surviving widow and son,<sup>1</sup> respondents here, are entitled to death benefits under § 909

<sup>1</sup> Rasmussen's surviving son is entitled to benefits until his 18th birthday, or, if he qualifies under the Act as a student, until his 23d birthday. See 33 U. S. C. §§ 902 (14), (18), and 909 (b) (Supp. 1976).

Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE JOHN PAUL STEVENS

January 18, 1979

Re: 77-1465; 1491 - Director v. Rasmussen

Dear Bill:

Please join me.

Respectfully,

Mr. Justice Rehnquist  
Copies to the Conference