



Supreme Court of Illinois

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ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENTS AT KANKAKEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAY 2

The Illinois Appellate Court for the Third Judicial District will be hearing oral arguments in two cases on Thursday, May 2 at Kankakee Community College (KCC). Arguments are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in the Iroquois Room. The public is invited.

Ordinarily, oral arguments in the Third District are heard at the historic courthouse in Ottawa.

This will be the second time, however, that the Appellate Court brings its official business to Kankakee Community College. Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, whose Third Judicial District includes Kankakee County, began a push for more civics education in Illinois schools and communities, and was a leader in encouraging that oral arguments be heard at KCC in 2010.

"It's important that citizens have access to their courts to see how they work," said Chief Justice Kilbride. "By bringing the appellate court arguments to Kankakee, we hope to open the appellate process to local residents who are unable to make a special trip to Ottawa. For the students, we hope this is a learning opportunity that can inform their plans for the future.

"On behalf of the Illinois Supreme Court, I thank the hard-working staff, faculty, and students at Kankakee Community College and the justices and staff of the Third District for their efforts in bringing these appellate court proceedings to Kankakee."

"KCC is honored to host the court," said Dr. John Avendano, president of Kankakee Community College. "It's an excellent opportunity for students to observe the judicial system in action and to gain an intellectual understanding of the process."

A few years ago, Chief Justice Kilbride requested that the Third District Appellate Justices hold oral arguments at universities and colleges as an ongoing part of his Judicial Education program. In October 2010, Kankakee Community College, Lewis University in Romeoville, Augustana College in Rock Island and Bradley University in Peoria held appellate oral arguments on their respective campuses.

In 2007, Chief Justice Kilbride met former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor at a conference in Chicago and heard her warn about the lack of civics education in the nation's schools.

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Since that time, Chief Justice Kilbride has sought to take steps in a personal way to reverse that trend, which included traveling to schools within the Third District explaining the judicial system in Illinois. He has given presentations to over two dozen public and private elementary schools, high schools and colleges within the 21-county boundary that comprises the Third Judicial District.

He has also spoken to service groups about the need of improving civics education in schools and invited their members to speak to their local school officials about the concern.

The civil case to be heard on Thursday is Dixon, Laukitis & Downing, P.C. v. Busey Bank. The case involves the law firm alleging that the bank had failed to recognize and inform them that a deposited check was counterfeit.

The criminal case to be heard is People v. Carr. It involves a defendant appealing his conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol and criminal damage to government property after he broke a window of a police squad car.

Following the arguments, the Appellate Court justices will take the case under advisement and issue their written ruling at a later date.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, director of communications to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323 or Dawn Frison Cook, senior communications specialist to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.0870)