

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENTS AT LEWIS UNIVERSITY

The Illinois Appellate Court for the Third District will be hearing oral arguments on Friday October 1 at Lewis University in Romeoville as part of an ongoing Judicial Education program initiated by Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride.

The two cases to be heard at Lewis University marks the second of four campus locations to host the Third District Appellate Court. Oral arguments at Lewis are scheduled to start at 10 a.m.

Students and the community are invited to observe lawyers on either side presenting their cases to a panel of three judges.

“It is important for a community to see how cases proceed through our court system,” said Justice Kilbride. “It is important to see how judges listen to all sides in a case, and apply the existing law to the facts in a particular case to achieve a proper legal outcome rooted in the fair and impartial administration of justice.”

Local area high school debate teams have been invited to participate in a debate in front of the appellate judges following the oral arguments.

Oral arguments were heard September 17 at Kankakee Community College. Future arguments are scheduled at Augustana College in Rock Island on Thursday October 7 and at Bradley University in Peoria on Tuesday October 26.

“More than three years ago, I heard Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor talk about the lack of civics education in our schools, and the need to explain the importance of a fair and impartial judiciary in our overall constitutional structure,” said Justice Kilbride. “At that time, I decided I would do my part to explain the judicial system in Illinois to pupils and students at every level. Since then, I have gone to numerous schools, including elementary, high schools and colleges.

“This is a continuation of those efforts, going to colleges to show in real time how one level of our court system works.”

MORE

Illinois Appellate Court to Hear Cases at Colleges Add One

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

The Illinois Appellate Court in other districts has held oral arguments at law schools in the state, but this may be the first time in Illinois that appellate oral arguments will be presented for the general student populace and the community.

“Lewis University is honored to have been chosen by Justice Kilbride to host this important event,” said Brother James Gaffney, FSC, president of Lewis University. “We feel privileged to play a role in this important civil process. Lewis has earned high recognition for its Mock Trial and Mediation Team competition and our students will benefit from this experience.”

The civil case to be heard at Lewis University is Brenda Riley v. PDH Pressure Cleaning, Inc. It involves a dispute regarding evidence presented during the trial stemming from a 1999 automobile accident in Joliet.

The criminal case to be heard at Lewis University is People of the State of Illinois v. Warren C. Snapp. It involves the retention and evaluation of a prisoner as a “Sexually Dangerous Person”.

Following the arguments, the judges of the appellate panel 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, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)