

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2010

**ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENTS AT
AUGUSTANA COLLEGE**

The Illinois Appellate Court for the Third District will be hearing oral arguments on Thursday, October 7 at Augustana College in Rock Island as part of an ongoing Judicial Education program initiated by Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride.

Augustana College is the third campus in recent weeks at which the Third District Appellate Court has held oral arguments to bring students and citizens an opportunity to witness firsthand the Illinois judiciary at work. Oral arguments at Augustana are scheduled to start at 10 a.m.

“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.”

Oral arguments were heard September 17 at Kankakee Community College and October 1 at Lewis University. Future arguments are scheduled 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.”

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

MORE

Illinois Appellate Court to Hear Cases at Colleges Add One

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.

“Augustana is honored to host the Illinois Appellate Court of the Third District as part of their state-wide civic education program,” said Dr. Ellen Hay, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs at Augustana College. “This is a wonderful opportunity for our students, campus and Quad-City community to learn about the state’s court system through a lens not many people get to experience.”

The civil case to be heard at Augustana College is Jill Carlson v. Lisa Brown, et al. v. Wal-Mart Stores, et al. It involves a dispute of the circuit court’s final judgement regarding a 2001 class-action lawsuit by former hourly Wal-Mart employees.

The criminal case to be heard at Augustana College is People v. Darrell Rippatoe. It involves the appeal of a remanded case on the bases of the defendant’s *pro se* post-trial claims of ineffective assistance of trial counsel.

Following the arguments, the judges of the appellate panel will take the case under advisement and issue their written ruling at a later date.

–30–

(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)