



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

Administrative Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Bldg. 1, Room E-316
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy
(304) 340-2306 April Harless
(304) 558-4219 / TTY
(304) 558-1212 / FAX
Web Site: www.courtsvw.gov
Twitter: [WVCourts](https://twitter.com/WVCourts)
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/courtsvw/
Email: Jennifer.Bundy@courtsvw.gov
Email: April.Harless@courtsvw.gov

Supreme Court to hear cases in front of students in Madison

For immediate release Thursday, April 03, 2014

MADISON, W.Va. – About 430 Boone County high school students will have the opportunity to see the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in person when the court hears arguments in three cases on a Rule 19 Argument Docket beginning at 10 a.m. Monday, April 7, at the Boone County Courthouse in Madison.

The Supreme Court's visit to Madison is part of the LAWS (Legal Advancement for West Virginia Students) program. LAWS -- a partnership between the court system, schools, the Bar, and the community -- teaches students about the Judicial Branch of government. Since Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis began the program when she was Chief Justice in 1999, about 4,750 high school and college students in about half of West Virginia's counties have participated.

The public also is invited to attend if space permits; priority seating will be given to students.

Teachers whose classes will attend this year previously were invited to a training session with Supreme Court personnel. At that session, teachers received information about the state and federal court systems, suggested exercises for students, and summaries of the real Supreme Court cases their classes will hear. Later, volunteer attorneys from the area met with students to discuss the court system and the cases.

On the day of LAWS, students will hear arguments in the case they have studied then meet with the attorneys who argued that case in a "debriefing" session in the courtroom.

The Supreme Court held the first LAWS program in Beckley in 1999. Other LAWS programs have been held in Clarksburg, Huntington, Wheeling, Summersville, Martinsburg, Parkersburg, Charleston, Romney, Princeton, Lewisburg, Moundsville, Charles Town, and Elkins.

The April 7 schedule follows. The first case will begin at 10 a.m. and the Court will continue until the docket is completed, probably around 12:30 p.m.

Van High School students will hear *State of West Virginia v. Antonio Phrophet*, No. 12-1389. Petitioner appeals the sentencing order of the Circuit Court of Berkeley County, entered September 10, 2012, upon his conviction of two counts of murder in the first degree and one count of arson in the first degree, following a trial by a jury of his peers.

Sherman High School students will hear *State of West Virginia v. Thomas L. Fitzwater*, No. 12-1487. Petitioner appeals the sentencing order of the Circuit Court of Fayette County, entered October 29, 2012, upon his conviction of one count of possession with intent to deliver and sentence to a term of two to thirty years.

Scott High School students will hear *State of West Virginia v. Rebecca F.*, No. 13-0311. Petitioner appeals the sentencing order of the Circuit Court of Berkeley County, entered January 14, 2013. The circuit court sentenced the petitioner to eight terms of incarceration of five years, one for each count of identity theft.

##