



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Supreme Court to hear cases in front of students in Point Pleasant

For immediate release

POINT PLEASANT, W.Va. – Wayne 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 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, at the Mason County Courthouse in Point Pleasant.

The Supreme Court's visit to Point Pleasant is part of the LAWS (Legal Advancement for West Virginia Students) program. LAWS is a partnership between the court system, schools, the Bar, and the community that teaches students about the Judicial Branch of government. Since Justice Robin Jean Davis began the program when she was Chief Justice in 1999, about 5,300 high school and college students in twenty-eight 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, Elkins, and Madison.

The April 21 schedule follows. The first case will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Rule 19 Argument Docket

Wahama High School students will hear **State of West Virginia v. Michael S. York**, No. 13-1265. Michael S. York appeals the order of the Circuit Court of Webster County, entered November 14, 2013, denying his motion for a new trial. He was convicted of two counts of murder in the first degree, one count of murder in the second degree, and various related crimes. His sentence included two periods of incarceration for life without the possibility of parole.

Hannan High School students will hear **Aaron Browning v. David Hickman**, No. 13-1116. Aaron Browning appeals the circuit court's denial of his motions for a new trial and mistrial/recess in this civil action involving an automobile accident in Logan.

Point Pleasant High School students will hear **State of West Virginia v. Rick Brock**, No. 14-0200. Rick Brock appeals the order of the Circuit Court of Wood County, entered February 20, 2014, sentencing him to serve an indeterminate term of two to ten years in prison for operating or attempting to operate a clandestine drug laboratory and one to five years in prison for conspiracy to operate or attempt to operate a clandestine drug laboratory. The circuit court ordered the sentences to be served concurrently, but both were suspended to allow him to serve a three-year period of probation.

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