

Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia



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Intermediate Court of Appeals Uses Two Satellite Courtrooms in Same Argument For First Time

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – For the first time, the Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia (ICA) on Wednesday heard arguments in a case in which attorneys appeared from two different satellite courtrooms.

The case *Steven M. Kittle v. ACNR Resources, Inc.*, No. 22-ICA-204, is a workers' compensation appeal. Attorneys J. Thomas Greene, Jr., of the law firm Bailey, Stultz, Oldaker, & Greene, PLLC, appeared from the Lewis County satellite courtroom for the petitioner. Attorney Aimee M. Stern of the law firm Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP, appeared for the respondent from the Wetzel County satellite courtroom.

"It went very well. Both attorneys were able to present their arguments on behalf of their clients without having to charge the clients for the cost of coming to Charleston for the hearing. The satellite courtrooms are making the appellate process more accessible for everyone, not just for self-represented litigants," said ICA Chief Judge Dan Greear.

The ICA began operating July 1, 2022. The three ICA judges use a courtroom in the West Virginia Judicial Tower in Charleston. Litigants have the choice of traveling to Charleston for proceedings or using one of five satellite courtrooms around the state. Those courtrooms are in Beckley in Raleigh County, Petersburg in Grant County, Weston in Lewis County, Berkeley Springs in Morgan County, and New Martinsville in Wetzel County.

Each satellite courtroom is in a space dedicated to the ICA, has video conferencing equipment that provides secure connections to the Charleston ICA courtroom, and has bailiffs who are present during all proceedings.