



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Supreme Court to hear LAWS docket in Charles Town

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CHARLES TOWN, W.Va. – The Supreme Court of Appeals will hear a Rule 20 Argument Docket in front of an audience of students from the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit on Tuesday, March 27, at the historic Jefferson County Courthouse.

The proceedings will take place in Judge David H. Sanders' courtroom, the location of the 1859 treason trial of abolitionist John Brown.

LAWS (Legal Advancement for West Virginia Students) is a partnership between the court system, schools, the Bar, and the community. The program teaches students about the Judicial Branch of government. Since Justice Robin Jean Davis began the program when she was Chief Justice in 1999, more than 4,450 high school and college students in twenty-four counties have participated.

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 Commission Room of the Jefferson County Library, one block from the courthouse.

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, and Moundsville. The Court will hear four cases next week. The schedule follows.

- At 9:30 a.m. students from Musselman High School and Jefferson High School will listen to arguments in State of West Virginia v. Brian John Stone, No. 11-0519. Stone appeals from his jury convictions on twenty-five alcohol-related counts, including five counts of driving under the influence of alcohol recklessly causing death. He was sentenced within statutory limits and the circuit court ordered those sentences to run consecutively. Stone asserts issues related to double jeopardy and evidentiary error. He seeks a reversal of his convictions and a new trial.

- At 10:15 a.m. students from Martinsburg High School will hear arguments in State of West Virginia v. Tony Curtis Myers, No. 11-0497. Myers appeals from his convictions on three counts of first-degree robbery. He was sentenced to three concurrent terms of sixty years each. Myers seeks a reversal of his convictions and sentencing and a remand for a new trial.
- At 11 a.m. students from Berkeley Springs High School will hear arguments in State of West Virginia v. Karen Tanner, No. 11-0634. Tanner appeals a condition imposed upon her in a circuit court order granting "court-supervised parole," specifically, the condition that she not be in the presence of her husband because he is a convicted felon.
- At 11:45 a.m. students from Washington High School and Hedgesville High School will hear arguments in State of West Virginia v. Henry C. Jenkins, No. 11-0362. Jenkins, convicted by jury of felony murder and child neglect resulting in death, appeals a circuit court order sentencing him to serve consecutive terms of life and three to fifteen years.

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