



Administrative Office of the Courts

P.O. Box 4820, Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Tel: (207) 822-0792 FAX: (207) 822-0781 TTY: (207) 822-0701

Mary Ann Lynch
Government & Media Counsel
P.O. Box 4820
Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Tel: (207) 592-5940
mary.ann.lynn@courts.maine.gov

For Immediate Release:

Supreme Judicial Court to Hold Court at Freeport, Mountain Valley (Rumford) and Westbrook High Schools – Fall 2017

September 11, 2017, Portland, Maine. The Supreme Judicial Court today announced its schedule for visiting Maine high schools this fall. For the past dozen years, the Court has held oral arguments in actual appellate cases in high schools around the state. In 2016, court was held at Washington Academy in Machias, Marshwood High School in South Berwick, and the University of Maine at Fort Kent, which hosted all the public high schools in the Saint John River Valley. These trips are arranged at the invitation of local legislators.

On Thursday, October 12, 2017 the Court will hear three appeals at Freeport High School at the invitation of Senate Majority Leader Garrett Mason and Speaker of the House, Sara Gideon. The following day, Friday, October 13th, the Court will travel to Rumford to hear appeals at Mountain Valley High School, at the invitation of Senator Lisa Keim. The Court's final high school trip this year will be Wednesday, October 25, when it holds court at Westbrook HS at the invitation of Representative Drew Gattine and Senator Mark Dion.

Students receive copies of the briefs in advance of the appeals, and after the oral argument the lawyers stay to answer questions from students.

Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley said, "The practice of appellate law is rarely seen on television or in movies, and we hope that these opportunities supplement the education and exposure of Maine students to both the third branch of government, and to the concept of justice as a function of the third branch. Maine legislators, teachers, and students have been a wonderful resource for us. While the Court in recent years has traveled from South Berwick to Fort Kent to Machias, it has been many years since we have been to Oxford County. We learn at least as much about our great state traveling and meeting with the students and teachers, as the students and the public learn about the Judicial Branch."

The press is welcome to attend. The case schedule and briefs will be posted on the Court web site at: http://www.courts.state.me.us/maine_courts/supreme/oral_arguments.shtml

If interviews or photographs are desired while the court is at the schools, please contact Mary Ann Lynch beforehand to schedule an interview at the above e-mail. Photographs and video of students are subject to the rules of the high school, and the media should contact the high school principal.