

Connecticut Appellate Court to Visit Shepaug Valley School on April 18, 2023, as Part of Its “On Circuit” Program



The [Connecticut Appellate Court](#) will visit [Shepaug Valley School](#) in Washington, CT, on Tuesday, April 18, continuing its long tradition of providing students with the opportunity to view actual arguments at their school.

Through its “On Circuit” program, the Appellate Court has heard arguments at [several high schools, colleges, and universities since the program began](#) in 1996, and will be visiting Shepaug Valley School for the first time. This

real-time experience provides students, educators, and the public with a greater understanding of the appellate process.

- **When, where & what:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023, in the Shepaug Valley School auditorium, 159 South St., Washington, CT. The Court will hear two cases, one criminal and one civil. Each case will take one hour, consisting of 40 minutes of oral argument plus a 20-minute question-and-answer session with the arguing attorneys. The first argument will start at 10 a.m., and the second at 11 a.m. [Judge Eliot D. Prescott](#), [Judge Nina F. Elgo](#) and [Judge Hope C. Seeley](#) will hear both cases. (Case summaries are attached.)
- **First case to be heard:** The 10 a.m. case is *State of Connecticut v. Phillip Russo*, out of the Middlesex Judicial District. The defendant is appealing a judge’s denial of his motion to dismiss a charge of second-degree sexual assault.
- **Second case to be heard:** The 11 a.m. case is *Jason Cooling v. City of Torrington*, a civil case out of the Litchfield Judicial District. The plaintiff has alleged that disability discrimination occurred when he worked as a Torrington police officer.
- **Cameras:** If a media organization wishes to submit a camera request, please contact the External Affairs Division at 860-757-2270.
- **Quotes regarding visit:**
 - *Appellate Court Judge Eliot D. Prescott:* “Judges Elgo, Seeley and I are looking forward to holding an Appellate Court ‘On Circuit’ session at Shepaug Valley School. We are grateful for the invitation and appreciate the efforts of Principal Donald R. Schels and all the faculty and staff for making the necessary arrangements and accommodations. We also greatly appreciate the efforts of Attorneys Angela Macchiarulo and Gregory Cava for preparing the students for this experience. The ‘On Circuit’ sessions are a wonderful opportunity for students and others to learn about the appellate process and our system of justice.”

- *Shepaug Valley School Principal Donald R. Schels:* “Shepaug Valley School feels very lucky to have this wonderful opportunity for our students to gain deeper insight into the appellate process in our state. It is wonderful that our judiciary considers this type of outreach to be part of its mission, and a continued partnership between the courts and our schools will help our students develop a deeper sense of civic awareness and engagement.”

Contact information: External Affairs Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch, 860-757-2270.