



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Oct. 10, 2014**

**PRESS ADVISORY:**

**Appellate Court "On Circuit" Oct. 16 at Bridgeport's Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet School**

The [Connecticut Appellate Court](#) will hear two cases at [Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet School in Bridgeport](#) on Thursday, Oct. 16, as part of the Court's annual "[On Circuit](#)" program. The arguments, which are open to the public, will occur at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in the Infinity Theater at the high school, located at [840 Old Town Road, Bridgeport](#).

This educational initiative began in 1996 and is intended to provide students, educators and the public with a greater understanding of the Court and its role and procedures. To prepare students for the arguments, attorneys from the Greater Bridgeport Bar Association will have met the students beforehand to provide an overview of the court system and the cases to be argued. The attorneys will also discuss courtroom decorum.

Appellate Court Chief Judge Alexandra D. DiPentima is coordinating the visit. She will preside over the cases that day with Appellate Court Judge Michael R. Sheldon and Judge Trial Referee Joseph P. Flynn, who previously served as the Appellate Court's chief judge.

Judge DiPentima said: "Judges Flynn, Sheldon and I are very much looking forward to holding an Appellate Court 'on circuit' session at the new Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet School. These 'on circuit' sessions provide opportunities to students and others to learn about the appellate process and our system of justice. We are grateful for Fairchild Wheeler's

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invitation. We are also grateful to Principal Jay Lipp and the faculty and staff at Fairchild Wheeler, along with the Greater Bridgeport Bar Association for its role in preparing the students for this experience.”

“Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet High School is very proud to host this event,” Principal Lipp said. “We also want to thank those instrumental in organizing the visit, including: the Hon. Chief Judge Alexandra DiPentima; the Hon. Michael Sheldon; the Hon. Joseph Flynn; the Fairchild Wheeler Social Studies Department; and area lawyers and dignitaries. More than 400 students will attend the arguments, which will be of great educational value.”

The first case, [\*State v. Kendall Smith\*](#), is a criminal appeal involving whether a warrant is required before the police can obtain cell site location information. Arguments will start at 9:30 a.m. The second case, [\*Lori Shriver v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.\*](#), is a premises liability action and will start at 10:30 a.m. Arguments in both cases will last 40 minutes. A question-and-answer period with counsel from the case and Fairchild Wheeler faculty and students will follow each argument.

News media organizations may record, broadcast, televise or photograph the arguments in accordance with the [Section 70-9 of the Connecticut Practice Book](#) and the Court’s [protocol](#). Please note that the protocol requires media outlets to make pooling arrangements among themselves if there are multiple camera requests after the arguments. Please also note that requests to videotape or photograph the question-and-answer period after the arguments should go through the school.

Judicial marshals will screen everyone entering the auditorium, and bladed or pointed items, weapons, food and beverages are not allowed. Guests are requested to not bring in briefcases, backpacks or large bags.

For additional information, please contact the External Affairs Division at 860-757-2270.

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