

## Connecticut Appellate Court Resumes “On Circuit” Program, Will Visit Branford High School on Nov. 2



The [Connecticut Appellate Court](#) is resuming its “[On Circuit](#)” program and is scheduled to hear two cases at [Branford High School](#), 185 E. Main St., on Wednesday, Nov. 2. The pandemic forced the program’s suspension in 2020.

This popular program provides students, educators, and the public with a greater understanding of the appellate process. The Appellate Court has heard arguments at [several](#)

[high schools, colleges, and universities since the program began](#) in 1996, and this is the Court’s second visit to Branford High School.

- **When & where:** Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022, in Branford High School’s auditorium. The first argument will start at 9:30 a.m.; the second argument will start at 10:30 a.m. A question-and-answer period with counsel from the case, students, and faculty will follow each argument. Appellate Court [Chief Judge William H. Bright, Jr.](#), [Judge Melanie L. Cradle](#), and [Judge José A. Suarez](#) will hear arguments in both cases.
- **First case to be heard:** The 9:30 a.m. case is State of Connecticut v. Travis Wayne Armstrong, from the Windham Judicial District. At issue in this criminal case is whether the trial court wrongly denied the defendant’s right to self-representation under the 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; whether the trial court gave inadequate instruction on an attempted first-degree robbery with firearm charge because it relied on a subjective rather than objective standard; and whether evidence was insufficient to convict the defendant on attempted first-degree robbery with a firearm ([case detail and briefs](#)).
- **Second case to be heard:** The 10:30 a.m. case is Richard Lastrina, Conservator (Estate of Daniel Lastrina) v. Evelyn Bettauer ([case detail and briefs](#)) and Richard Lastrina, Conservator (Estate of Daniel Lastrina) v. Bruce E. Burnham ([case detail and briefs](#)). At issue in this malpractice case is whether the trial court erred in holding that it would violate public policy to impose a duty on the defendant to protect the plaintiff’s ward from the consequences of his own wrongful conduct.
- **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 William H. Bright, Jr.:* “We are very excited to resume the Court’s ‘On Circuit’ program with our second visit to Branford High School. We are grateful for the invitation and appreciate the efforts of Principal Lee

Panagoulas and all the faculty and staff for making the necessary arrangements and accommodations. We also greatly appreciate the efforts of Attorneys David Reif and Bill Bloss 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.”

- *Principal Lee Panagoulas:* “Branford High School values hosting a session of the Connecticut Appellate Court again. Partnering with the Judicial Branch gives our students an opportunity to take part in an authentic learning opportunity and directly aligns with our mission to develop active and well-rounded citizens.”
- **Contact information:** External Affairs Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch, 860-757-2270.