

Connecticut Appellate Court to Visit Classical Magnet School on Nov. 13 as Part of Its “On Circuit” Program



The [Connecticut Appellate Court](#) will visit [Classical Magnet School](#) in Hartford, on Wednesday, Nov. 13 as part of its “On Circuit” program, which provides students the opportunity to hear actual court cases argued in “real time.”

Through the program, students, educators, and the public gain 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.

Presiding Judge Bethany J. Alvord, Judge Nina F. Elgo, and Judge Melanie L. Cradle will hear one criminal and one civil case during the Appellate Court’s visit to the school.

- **When, where & what:** Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, in the Classical Magnet School Theater, 85 Woodland St, Hartford, CT. 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 8:45 a.m., and the second at 10 a.m.
- **First case to be heard:** The 8:45 a.m. case is [State v. Nicolas A. Marciano](#), a criminal case out of the Tolland Judicial District. At issue is whether the trial court properly held that the community caretaking exception did not apply in granting a motion to suppress evidence on the ground of unlawful seizure, and whether the defendant was seized under the Fourth Amendment.
- **Second case to be heard:** The 10 a.m. case is [Carri Roux v. Jacob N. Coffey, et al.](#), a civil case out of the Hartford Judicial District. At issue is whether a property owner whose conduct increases the risk that an intoxicated patron will drive drunk owes a duty to the users of public roads to prevent the patron from driving, and whether a driver’s choice to consume alcohol is always the sole proximate cause of a drunk driving collision.
- **Cameras:** Any media organization wishing to submit a camera request should contact the External Affairs Division at 860-757-2270.
- **Quote regarding visit:**
 - *Presiding Appellate Court Judge Bethany J. Alvord: “Judges Elgo, Cradle and I are looking forward to holding an Appellate Court ‘On Circuit’ session at Classical Magnet School. We are grateful for the invitation and appreciate the efforts of Principal Bethany Sullivan, teacher Jeff Hoberman, theater director Sloane Williams and all of the faculty and staff for making the necessary arrangements and accommodations. The ‘On Circuit’ sessions are a wonderful opportunity for students and others to learn about the appellate process and our system of justice.”*

- *Principal Bethany Sullivan: “We are incredibly excited to host the Appellate Court at Classical Magnet School. Classical has a competitive mock trial team and several students interested in pursuing careers in law, so this is a wonderful opportunity for our school community. We are honored to host the judges and their staff at Classical and look forward to this unique and important experience.”*
- **Contact information:** External Affairs Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch, 860-757-2270.