



# Press Release

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## **ALASKA SUPREME COURT TO HEAR CASE AT WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL** **“Supreme Court LIVE” Event Fosters Understanding of the Justice System**

**Anchorage, Alaska (October 1, 2019)** – The Alaska Supreme Court will visit West Valley High School on Thursday, October 10, 2019, from 9:30AM – 11:30AM for the Supreme Court LIVE educational program. The court will hear oral arguments in a pending case before an audience of high school students.

The case, *Kaleb Lee Basey v. State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety*, centers on competing public interests: the Alaska State Troopers’ interest in not having work-related discipline in their personnel files available to the public, and the public’s interest in knowing when law enforcement or other public employees have engaged in misconduct leading to discipline. The case arose from a situation in which Basey was charged with a federal criminal offense in which two state troopers assisted in the investigation. Basey made a public records request to the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS), seeking information about the two Troopers’ training and discipline records. DPS refused to give him the records, so he sued in state court asking the court to order DPS to give him the records. The trial judge refused to do so, and Basey appealed to the Alaska Supreme Court, asking it to decide that a member of the public can access disciplinary records of the Alaska State Troopers.

Amici curiae (“friends of the court”) for the press and the ACLU of Alaska are arguing on behalf of Basey. Amici curiae for the two unions representing state employees have submitted a brief in support of the State’s position, but they will not be arguing.

Volunteer attorneys from the Alaska Bar Association are visiting Fairbanks area high schools in the days preceding the program to help students understand the appellate process and the case itself, using case summaries and information from the court’s website:

<http://www.courts.alaska.gov/media/scl-materials.htm#s-17099>. The program will include question-and-answer sessions with the attorneys arguing the cases, and with members of the Supreme Court. The program is open to the public and will also be live-streamed at [www.360north.org](http://www.360north.org). Attendees are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes early to allow time for security screening. Members of the media wishing to use cameras or other electronic equipment in the auditorium should file an Application for Photographing, Filming Recording, or Streaming a Court Proceeding (<http://courts.alaska.gov/forms/tf-945.pdf>) with Appellate Clerk Meredith Montgomery by October 8, 2019 at the email address or fax number noted above.

Background: Supreme Court LIVE brings Supreme Court oral arguments in actual cases to student audiences at Alaskan high schools. Designed to help students better understand the justice system, this unique learning opportunity debuted in 2010, and has brought cases to Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Palmer, Sitka, and Utqiagvik.

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