



Press Release

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

Anchorage, Alaska (February 19, 2019) – The Alaska Supreme Court will visit West Anchorage High School on Wednesday, February 26, from 10:20AM–12:20PM for the *Supreme Court LIVE* educational program. *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.

The court will hear oral argument in *Alaska Public Defender Agency v. Superior Court*, which involves a dispute related to who should pay for transporting an indigent juvenile defendant and his parent to the juvenile’s criminal adjudication trial. The case arises from a juvenile delinquency petition filed against a minor who lives in a village on the lower Yukon River. The trial is scheduled to be held in Bethel, on the Kuskokwim River. Neither location is on the road system, so the juvenile and his parent will need to fly to Bethel for the trial. The trial court and the Alaska Court of Appeals both decided that the Public Defender Agency – the state agency that provides legal representation to indigent criminal defendants – should pay transportation costs, but the Public Defender Agency is asking the Supreme Court to decide that the Division of Juvenile Justice – the state agency that files juvenile delinquency proceedings – should pay.

Volunteer attorneys from the Alaska Bar Association and staff from the court system have visited Anchorage area high schools to help students understand the appellate process and the case itself, using a case summary and information from the court’s website: <http://courts.alaska.gov/media/scl-materials.htm#a-12814>. 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. 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 should file an Application for Court Approval of Media Coverage <https://public.courts.alaska.gov/web/forms/docs/tf-945.pdf> with Appellate Clerk Meredith Montgomery by noon, February 25, 2019 at the email address or fax number noted above.

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