

# *News Advisory*

From the Rhode Island Judiciary



## **Supreme Court rides circuit to Exeter-W. Greenwich**

**March 27, 2013:** The Rhode Island Supreme Court will again practice the centuries-old tradition of “riding the circuit” when it hears oral arguments at Exeter-West Greenwich Senior High School in West Greenwich on Thursday, April 4.

“We are very pleased to have Exeter-West Greenwich High School as the host for the next traveling session of the Supreme Court,” said Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell. “We will hear real cases. The other four justices and I view this as a wonderful opportunity to take the work of the Supreme Court to communities outside Providence so students and others can see how their justice system works.”

In the days before the automobile, courts would travel throughout their jurisdictions to hear arguments. This practice, called riding the circuit, was eventually dropped as transportation methods made it easier for litigants to travel. In the last 12 years, the Supreme Court has revived this practice as a way to open up the judicial process. Now, twice a year, the Supreme Court literally moves its entire operation to a local community and invites students and members of the community to see the process firsthand. The court last traveled in 2012 to Tolman High School in Pawtucket.

Court will begin at 9:15 a.m. in the auditorium at Exeter-West Greenwich High School, 930 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich. The auditorium is on the side of the school closest to Nooseneck Hill Road (Route 3). Parking is available in the rear. The court session is open to the public. Those wishing to observe should arrive by 9 a.m.

While at Exeter-West Greenwich, the justices will hear arguments in four cases: a defendant’s appeal of a conviction for carrying a firearm without a license; an appeal in a negligence lawsuit involving deployment of an automobile’s air bags; an appeal in a dog bite case, and a defendant’s appeal of convictions for assault, larceny, and violating a no-contact order.

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