

News Advisory

From the Rhode Island Judiciary



Supreme Court rides circuit to Lincoln High School

March 27, 2018: The Rhode Island Supreme Court will again practice the centuries-old tradition of “riding the circuit” when it hears oral arguments at Lincoln High School on Wednesday, April 4.

“We are looking forward to this special session of the Rhode Island Supreme Court at Lincoln High School,” said Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell. “This is an opportunity to take the work of the Supreme Court out of Providence so students and the public can see firsthand 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 17 years, the Supreme Court has revived this practice as a way to open up the judicial process. The Supreme Court literally moves its entire operation to a local community and invites students and members of the public to observe the proceedings. The court last traveled in April 2017 to Woonsocket High School.

Court will begin at 9:15 a.m. in the auditorium at Lincoln High School at 135 Old River Road, Lincoln. The court session is open to the public. Those wishing to attend should arrive by 9 a.m.

While at Lincoln High School, the five justices of the Supreme Court will hear arguments in three cases: an appeal of a criminal conviction for murder; a lawsuit involving a negligence claim at an ice rink, and an appeal of a Family Court judgment in a disputed common-law marriage.

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