



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
Public Information Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton
Public Information Officer

MEDIA ADVISORY

Release Number: 31

Release Date: August 26, 2009

Supreme Court Posts Legal Briefs For Oral Argument Sessions

San Francisco—Starting today, the Supreme Court of California will post legal briefs online in cases to be argued at its monthly oral argument calendar sessions.

The court's next session will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the Earl Warren Building, 350 McAllister Street, Fourth Floor, San Francisco 94102. The briefs are posted on the California Courts Web site:

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/oralarg-briefs.htm>.

“This new service by the Clerk's Office is designed to increase access to the court's oral arguments,” stated Chief Justice Ronald M. George. “In the past, the court has posted online briefs in high-profile cases and in special outreach sessions for high school students. The public and press welcomed those online documents, so the court has decided to expand this service.”

Mr. Frederick Ohlrich, Clerk/Executive Officer of the Supreme Court, added that in the future, the court will post legal briefs on the court's Web site two weeks after the oral argument calendar is issued. “We believe this modest increase in access to information in cases to be argued before the Supreme Court of California will be helpful to the public and the news media.”

The Supreme Court also maintains an online Case Information System (<http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/>) which features complete docket information for all pending cases, as well as attorneys of record, case summaries, and a list of briefs. The online system allows court watchers to receive e-mail notification about various actions in pending cases.

Oral argument, a tradition that dates back to the early days of the English court system, is the only opportunity that the justices have to question the attorneys about issues in legal briefs.

Each year, the Supreme Court of California holds four oral argument calendars in Los Angeles, four in San Francisco, and two in Sacramento. For the past eight years, the court has held annual educational sessions in other locations statewide. Throughout the year, the court remains open and engaged in case-related work.

-#-