



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Court of Appeal to Hold Public Outreach Session in Riverside County**

Riverside—The Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, will hold its fourth “Outreach Plus” court-community program on Thursday, February 1, at John W. North High School, announced Presiding Justice Manuel A. Ramirez. The session is open to the public.

The goal of the program is not only to educate high school students about the trial and appellate courts, but to encourage them to stay in school and consider careers in the law.

The oral argument session will begin at 9:10 a.m. at John W. North High School Theatre, 1550 Third Street, Riverside. Oral argument will be heard in two criminal appeals, lasting about 40 minutes in each case. Afterward, a 30-minute question-and-answer session will be conducted by the justices for the audience of students, faculty, and local officials.

### **Cases to be Argued**

The appeals to be argued follow:

*People v. Kelly et al.* is a case in which two defendants were involved in a single incident of false imprisonment and torture. Their sentences included life with the possibility of parole. In their appeal, the defendants raise a number of issues including the admission of uncharged-crimes evidence, jury instructions defining torture and on the use of uncharged-crimes evidence, prosecutorial misconduct, and ineffective assistance of counsel.

*People v. S. D.* is a delinquency case in which a minor smashed a car window with a sledgehammer a couple years ago and more recently threatened to injure a teacher. For the first offense, the minor had been adjudged a ward of the court and placed on home probation, and wardship and home probation were continued as a result of the second

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offense. On appeal, the minor argues that insufficient evidence was presented against her concerning the allegation that she intended to threaten the teacher, affected the teacher's performance, or had the ability to carry out any threat.

After oral argument and the question-and-answer session, the Court of Appeal justices and staff will team with Riverside County Bar Association lawyers who will speak to 9th to 12th grade students in their classrooms. The justices will use these sessions to inform students about the importance of graduating from high school, considering careers in the legal field, and the roles of trial and appellate courts.

The Court of Appeal and the Riverside County Bar Association have adapted "Outreach Plus" with the assistance of San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Herbert R. Fishcer, Ph.D., Riverside Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Susan Rainey, and John W. North High School administrators Dale Kinnear, Sr., Principal, and Assistant Principals Nancy Magi, Mike Barte, Lisa Carrera, Richard Davis, and Doug Murphy.

Division Two of the Fourth Appellate District hears appeals from the superior courts in Inyo, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. The appeal court started holding special sessions in high school auditoriums several years ago in eastern Riverside County.

*For more information, call Henry Espinoza, Assistant Clerk/Administrator, at 951-248-0200.*

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