



NEWS RELEASE

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Court of Appeal to Hold Oral Arguments in Stanislaus County

Fresno—The Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, will hear oral argument in three appeals from cases tried in the Superior Court of Stanislaus County on Friday, April 7, 2006, announced Administrative Presiding Justice James A. Ardaiz.

Oral arguments will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Modesto Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1010 10th Street, Lower Level, Modesto. The public is encouraged to attend.

Cases include *People v. Cook*, a criminal case; *In re Dakota E., Minor*, a juvenile case; and *Johnston v. Morelli*, a civil case. Summaries and a brief discussion of the legal issues will be provided at the door.

Associate Justices Thomas A. Harris, Rebecca A. Wiseman, Herbert I. Levy, Dennis A. Cornell, and Betty L. Dawson will hear the appeals.

Oral argument offers an opportunity for the justices to question the appellate attorneys on the factual and legal issues raised in the written briefs previously submitted to the court in each case.

Courts of Appeal do not conduct jury trials or hear additional evidence other than what was considered in the superior court. Instead, they review written records and are bound by the facts as established in the trial court proceeding. The appellate court's limited role is to determine whether any legal error has been committed and, if so, whether it should affect the outcome of the case.

For more information, call Julie N. Bagoye, Assistant Clerk/Administrator of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District at 559-445-5226, or Linda Romero-Soles, Chief Deputy Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Stanislaus County, at 209-525-7794.