



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Fourth Appellate District Holds Special Session for High School Students**

Riverside—More than 1,200 high school students in Inyo County will participate in an innovative court-community outreach program sponsored by the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two (Riverside), at Bishop Union High School, 301 North Fowler Street, Bishop, California 93514, on Thursday, September 30, 2010, Presiding Justice Manuel A. Ramirez has announced.

The Outreach Plus program, launched in 2005, features oral arguments and classroom visits by justices and local lawyers to urge high school students to stay in school and to consider careers in the law. Students are also taught about the legal system and the Court of Appeal.

Presiding Justice Ramirez noted that this is the third time “Outreach Plus” will be held in Inyo County. Similar outreach programs will take place in the San Bernardino, Riverside, and Palm Springs areas through the remainder of this year and into the next as school and court calendars permit.

At Bishop High School, oral arguments will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer session conducted by the justices and counsel.

The justices will hear the following two cases:

In *People v. Thornton*, the jury convicted appellant of robbing a convenience store and shooting the store clerk to death. On appeal, his counsel will contend that the police interrogated him in violation of his rights against self-incrimination and to the presence of a lawyer.

In *People v. Hernandez et al.* a jury convicted one appellant of shooting the victim to death and the other appellant of being an accessory after the fact. Counsel for the first appellant contends that there was insufficient evidence to establish his personal use of a firearm, and the second argues that the prosecution should have been required to prove a

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victim restitution claim to a jury.

After oral argument, justices and appellate court staff will be matched with Inyo County Superior Court judges, commissioners, and court personnel, and County Bar Association lawyers. The teams will visit students in the ninth to twelfth grades and discuss the courts, the law, and the importance of a high school and college education. That evening, the presiding and associate justices will join the superior court judges and their staff and the president and members of the Inyo County Bar Association for a special bar meeting.

Arrangements to hold “Outreach Plus” in Inyo County resulted from the collaboration of the Court of Appeal; Inyo Superior Court Judges Dean Stout and Brian J. Lamb; Rachel Weksler, president of the Inyo County Bar Association; Barry Simpson, Superintendent of Bishop Joint Union High School District; Allan Van Velzen, Principal of Bishop Union High School; and Kathleen Stout, Senior Class Advisor. Jerome P. Wallingford and William J. Capriola and Kenneth Nordin, counsel for the appellants, and Steve Oetting and Scott Taylor, Deputy Attorneys General, for the People, will represent their clients at oral argument and participate in the question-and-answer session.

The Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, hears appeals from the superior courts in Inyo, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. The court heard oral argument in San Bernardino from 1929 to 1999 and since 1999 has been located in Riverside.

For more information or for information about ADA accommodations, call Paula Garcia, Assistant Clerk/Administrator, at 951-248-0200.

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