



NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 71

Release Date: October 31, 2007

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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Supreme Court Approves TV Broadcast Of Medical Marijuana Appeal on Nov. 6

California Channel to Offer Cable & Satellite Coverage

San Francisco – As part of its effort to improve public understanding of the judicial branch, the California Supreme Court has approved a live television broadcast of oral argument in an appeal involving the state’s medical marijuana law to be held from 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 6, 2007.

The high court will hear the case as part of its day-long November calendar session at the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building, 914 Capital Mall, Sacramento.

California Channel, a public affairs cable network, will broadcast oral arguments in the first three out of the six cases to be argued. The network reaches 6.5 million viewers across the state and will offer a satellite link to facilitate coverage by other stations. Local viewing information is available at www.calchannel.com/carriage.htm.

The cases to be televised on November 6 follow:

9 a.m. – *Ross v. Ragingwire Communications, S138130* -- This case involves an employee’s claim that he was improperly discharged for his off-duty use of medical marijuana. Specifically, the case involves the application of the state’s Compassionate Use Act, which provides a defense to criminal charges for certain medicinal uses of marijuana, to claims under tort law and the Fair Employment and Housing Act’s disability provisions for discharge from employment for off-duty use of marijuana.

10 a.m. – *Marathon Entertainment, Inc. v. Blasi et al., S145428* –

(over)

This case presents various legal issues, including the applicability of the licensing requirements of the Talent Agencies Act to personal managers and the applicability of the doctrine of severability of contracts to that act.

11 a.m. – *People v. Lopez (Fernando)*, S143615 – This is a criminal case involving convictions of child molestation and sexual battery. The appeal presents this principal issue: Did the prosecutor commit misconduct during closing argument?

The Supreme Court’s complete oral argument calendar for November 6 is on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/calendars/documents/SNOVB07.DOC .

The calendar session is open to the public and press. Cameras will be installed in the Great Hall outside the Supreme Court Courtroom to accommodate overflow viewing by those unable to be seated in the courtroom.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in California, and its decisions are binding on all other state courts. The court holds oral argument throughout the year in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Sacramento. Once a year, the court also holds oral argument in an additional location as part of its annual court-community outreach program.

For more information, please visit the Supreme Court’s Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/>. The court’s Practices and Procedures Handbook is online at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/iopp.htm> .

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