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Coachella Valley Students Hear Oral Arguments in Criminal Cases

Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, Teaches Students About the Law and Importance of Staying in School

Riverside—More than 350 students at Indio High School will hear oral arguments in two criminal appeals on Thursday, April 14, 2011, as part of an innovative court-community outreach program sponsored by the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, Presiding Justice Manuel A. Ramirez announced today.

The “Outreach Plus” program will be held at Indio High School at 81-750 Avenue in Indio, California. The public is welcome to attend.

Oral arguments will be held from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. and will be followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer session conducted by the justices and counsel. In addition to Presiding Justice Ramirez, Associate Justices Thomas E. Hollenhorst, Betty A. Richli, Jeffrey King, Douglas P. Miller, and Carol D. Codrington will hear oral arguments in the following cases.

People v. Arteaga: In this case, the jury convicted the defendant of child endangerment based on his attempt to stab his wife to death in close proximity to his children. On appeal, defendant contends (1) that the evidence was insufficient to prove that the stabbing of his wife created a situation in which the probability of serious harm to his children was great and (2) that the jury should have been instructed that they could have convicted defendant of the lesser offense of misdemeanor child endangerment.

People v. Moomey: In this case, a jury convicted the defendant of being an accessory after the fact to a felony, specifically, the burglary of \$80 worth of food from a grocery store. On appeal, defendant contends that there was insufficient evidence to show (1) that he knew his codefendant

intended to steal or had stolen the groceries and (2) that the burglary was not serious enough to provide the basis for his accessory after the fact conviction.

Before oral argument, the justices will meet with selected students at a reception at Indio High School, including moot court trial participants. After oral argument, the justices and Desert Bar Association lawyers will visit 10th and 11th grade classrooms and will discuss California appellate and superior courts, legal careers, and the importance of staying in school and pursuing a college education.

Similar outreach programs will take place in the San Bernardino, Riverside, and Palm Springs areas throughout this year and next as school and court calendars permit. The “Outreach Plus” program has been held at a number of high schools in the Coachella Valley beginning with oral argument at Palm Desert High School in May 2002.

Arrangements to hold the “Outreach Plus” in Indio County resulted from the collaboration of the Court of Appeal, Barbara R. Baron, president of the Desert Bar Association, and Rudy Ramirez, principal of Indio High School. Presiding Justice Ramirez acknowledged Daniel G. Koryn and John Derrick, counsel for the appellants, and Meredith A. Strong and Kristine A. Gutierrez, Deputy Attorneys General, for the People, for making the drive to Indio to represent their clients at oral argument and participate in the question-and-answer session.

The Presiding Justice also thanked the following lawyers from the Desert Bar Association for visiting classrooms with the justices: Barbara R. Baron, Mary E. Gilstrap, David Mulé, Patricia S. Muro, Michael B. Rover, Julie A. Rosser-Tryce, Karen J. Sloat, Carlos L. Campos, James T. Latting, Kimberly T. Lee, and Robert Gilliland.

From 1929 until 1999, the Court of Appeal heard oral argument at its headquarters in San Bernardino, and since 1999 has been headquartered and hears oral argument in Riverside.

For more information, call Paula Garcia, Assistant Clerk/Administrator, at 951-248-0212.

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