



NEWS RELEASE

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Tulare County Students to Attend Court of Appeal Oral Argument

Students invited to ask questions

Fresno—As part of an ongoing outreach program, the justices of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, have invited faculty and students from Tulare County school districts, including the College of the Sequoias, to attend oral argument on Thursday, April 7, 2011. The session will be held at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers located in the Administration Building at 2800 West Burrel Avenue, in Visalia, California.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., a three-justice panel will hear arguments in a criminal case, *People v. Huerra*, F059689. Justices will question the appellate attorneys about issues raised in the written briefs previously submitted to the Court of Appeal. Following argument, which will last approximately one hour, the students will have an opportunity to ask all the justices unfiltered questions.

These outreach sessions give students a wonderful opportunity to learn about their court system, a venue to discuss important policy questions, and a chance to ask candid questions about career choices. To enhance the students' learning experience, the court has provided faculty with a summary of the facts and legal points relating to the case to be argued, as well as information concerning the roles of California trial and appellate courts. A summary of the *Huerra* case will be provided at the door.

Seven of the ten justices sitting on the Court of Appeal in Fresno will travel to Tulare and participate in the question-and-answer session. The three-justice panel hearing the appeal will be Associate Justice Rebecca A. Wiseman, who will serve as the Acting Presiding Justice, along with Associate Justices Dennis A. Cornell and Jennifer R.S. Detjen. Also available for the question-and-answer portion of the event, following oral argument, will be Presiding Justice Brad R. Hill and Associate Justices Stephen J. Kane, Charles S. Poochigian, and Donald R. Franson, Jr.

The Fifth Appellate District includes nine counties: Tulare, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne. The court hears appeals from cases which include criminal, civil, family law, juvenile delinquency and dependency, probate and others. Appellate courts do not conduct jury trials or accept additional evidence beyond what was originally considered in the superior court. Rather, they review written records and are bound by the facts as established in the superior court proceeding. The appellate court's role is to determine whether any legal error has occurred and, if so, whether it changes the outcome of the case.

Attendance on April 7 is limited only by the size of the Board of Supervisors chambers, which seats 110. While the majority of the seats are allocated for students, the public is welcome. Oral argument and the question-and-answer session will be recorded and viewable via the Tulare County Board of Supervisors' website, where the audio will be streamed live or can be accessed at a later date. Access the live audio at: <http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/>, click on "Live Board Meetings", click on "Upcoming Events" and, finally, click on "audio".

For further information contact Charlene Ynson, the Court Administrator/Clerk of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, at 559-445-5989.

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