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OnTheTOWN

Fourth Dept. aids School 58



School 58 students learn more about the working of the Appellate Division from Fourth Department Presiding Justice Henry J. Scudder.

The Appellate Division, Fourth Department last year established a partnership with World of Inquiry School 58 in an effort to promote volunteer work in the community.

The partnership was formed following the Oct. 26, 2009 signing of a policy statement on *Pro Bono* Legal and Volunteer Services for the Fourth Department, designed to encourage and support efforts by Appellate Division employees to provide *pro bono* legal and volunteer services within the community.

The local policy was modeled after similar *pro bono* policies issued by the U.S. Department of Justice and the state Attorney General's Office and addresses the unique issues faced by government attorneys who perform *pro bono* or volunteer work. The Fourth Department became the first Appellate court in New York to create and implement a formal policy on *pro bono* legal and volunteer services.

School 58, located at 200 University Ave., is within walking distance of the Appellate Division and is an "expeditionary learning school," whereby students engage in learning expeditions or field studies to investigate topics.

In November 2009, all of the school's 70 seventh graders visited the appellate division, where they had the opportunity to tour the facility, observe oral arguments, meet with staff attorneys and with a judge. On Jan. 28 and 29, five of the students returned for two days of intensive study, during which they worked on a case with staff attorneys and had the opportunity to sit on the bench with Presiding Justice Henry J. Scudder to hear oral arguments presented by Appellate Division Law Assistants. After oral arguments, Justice Scudder and the associate justices conferred the case and prepared a written decision.

— James Mulley



Above left, shown left to right: John Wilson, Kia Cosme, Presiding Justice Henry J. Scudder, Tutor Butler, Cijah Shellman and Charisse Warnick hear arguments from Appellate Court Attorney Emina Poricanin (standing) and Appellate Court Attorney April Orlowski (seated).

Above, a student bangs the gavel in an Appellate Division courtroom.

At left, School 58 students.

