



# PRESS RELEASE

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Janet DiFiore  
Chief Judge**

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## **Court of Appeals to Hold Oral Arguments in White Plains**

**New York** – The Court of Appeals – the State’s highest court – will be going on the road this week, holding a three-day session at the Richard J. Daronco Westchester County Courthouse in White Plains from April 25 through April 27 that will give residents in the lower Hudson Valley and surrounding areas a unique opportunity to observe its workings firsthand.

New York’s Court of Appeals hears criminal and civil appeals from the State’s mid-level appellate courts and sometimes directly from the trial courts, generally focusing on broad issues of law as distinguished from individual factual disputes. The Court’s members are Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, who also serves as Chief Judge of the New York State court system, and Associate Judges Jenny Rivera, Eugene M. Fahey, Leslie E. Stein, Michael J. Garcia and Rowan D. Wilson.

During its three-day session in White Plains, the Court will hear oral arguments in eight cases, a mix of criminal and civil appeals involving a range of matters, from the admissibility of evidence in a criminal case to city zoning regulations pertaining to the restriction of adult establishments.

While the Court has traveled to other cities several times over the past decade, it typically convenes in the historic courtroom in Albany’s Court of Appeals Hall. Since her appointment as Chief Judge early last year, Judge DiFiore has expressed a keen interest – as part of the court system’s broader public outreach and education efforts – to increase the frequency of the Court’s travels to other parts of the State. Chief Judge DiFiore and the Court’s Associate Judges last took

such a “road trip” in October, when for the first time in 168 years the Court convened in Rochester.

The Court will host students and teachers from six high schools serving Westchester and the Bronx, as well as students and faculty from Mercy College’s Dobbs Ferry campus. The participating high schools, which include both public and private institutions, are Bronxville High School; Hackley School (Tarrytown); Maria Regina High School (Hartsdale); Mount Saint Michael Academy (the Bronx); Mount Vernon High School; and Woodlands High School (Hartsdale). Over 40 students are expected to attend each of the three days.

In preparation for their visit to the Court, the students, some of whom are debate or mock trial team members at their respective schools, will review the briefs in the criminal cases with volunteer lawyers from the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office and the Legal Aid Society of Westchester County, along with volunteer law students from The Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. With this preparation, the students will get the most out of the oral arguments they will hear at the Court. Following the oral arguments, Chief Judge DiFiore and her Court of Appeals colleagues will meet with the students to discuss the day’s session and the Court’s work, as well as other relevant topics of interest.

“By bringing the Court of Appeals to different regions of the State, we are able offer more New Yorkers a close-up view of their State’s highest court in action, including the types of cases the Court hears and the ways in which the Court approaches its decisions. This is important because the work of the Court can have a significant impact on communities throughout New York. These ‘road trips’ also provide a way to reach greater numbers of young people around the State, to educate them about the Court and justice system, and hopefully pique their interest in the law and public service,” said Chief Judge DiFiore.

To learn more about the Court, view current case summaries or watch a webcast of oral arguments, visit the Court of Appeals website: [www.nycourts.gov/ctapps/](http://www.nycourts.gov/ctapps/).

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