



Spring 2009

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center Educator Newsletter

CALENDAR

May 5–6	Oral Arguments*
May 12	Public Hearing*
May 13	Court Community Connections: Supreme Court Oral Arguments in St. Joseph County
June 17	Administrative Conference*
June 22-26	Exploring Careers in the Law, 10 th -12 th grades (Waiting List)
July 13-17	Exploring Careers in the Law, 7 th -9 th grades (Limited Openings)
July 31	Final date for Michigan Supreme Court opinions to be issued for the session
Sept 17	Constitution Day

*Michigan Supreme Court Oral Arguments, Public Hearings, and Administrative Conferences are broadcast on Michigan Government Television (MGTV). See www.mgtv.org for dates and times.



Tour the Learning Center in 2009–2010

Schedule Up to a Year in Advance

Although the current school year has not yet come to a close, we are already thinking about the 2009–2010 school year. The Michigan Supreme Learning Center schedules tours up to a year in advance, and we encourage you to make reservations early, especially for spring tours.

Tours include the following choices:

- Michigan's Judicial Branch of Government (General Tour, Grade Specific)
- Core Democratic Values (3rd–6th Grades)
- Special Topics (with Advance Notice)

To reserve a tour for your group, call 517-373-7171 or visit the Learning Center web site at <http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/reservations.htm>.

Exploring Careers in the Law 2009

Limited Openings Available for 7th–9th Grade Students

Do you know students interested in becoming a lawyer or judge? To learn all about the legal field, they can attend Exploring Careers in the Law at the Michigan Hall of Justice, Lansing.

Students in 7th–9th grade will explore a range of law-related careers through tours and activities, July 13-17. They will meet with judges, lawyers, and other legal professionals, and observe proceedings at Lansing's District Court 54A.

Topics will include:

- What's Law School About?
- Meet a Prosecutor
- Innocence Project
- Teen Court Simulation
- Visit District Court
- Meet a Michigan Supreme Court Justice

For more information, visit <http://courts.mi.gov/plc/resources/programs.htm> or contact Rachael L. Drenovsky at 517-373-5027 or drenovskyr@courts.mi.gov.



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Court Community Connections

Michigan Supreme Court Oral Arguments on the Road

In October, the Michigan Supreme Court heard an oral argument at Saginaw Valley State University before a crowd of 550 students, educators, and community members as part of Court Community Connections. This program helps students to understand the role of appellate courts. To prepare, students meet with local attorneys, who discuss the case to be heard by the Court. After the argument, students participate in a debriefing session with the attorneys who argued the case, followed by a reception.

The next visit is scheduled for May 13 in Centreville, St. Joseph County. For more information about the Court Community Connections program, contact Barb Browne, browneb@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-0714.

In Brief

Jury Duty: A Responsibility of Citizens

A jury is a group of individuals randomly selected from the community, sworn in by the court, and asked to deliver a decision in a court proceeding. Jurors are an important part of the legal system. Individuals called for jury duty in Michigan courts are randomly selected using driver license and personal identification cardholder lists provided by the Secretary of State. *You must respond to the jury summons.*

Qualifications for jurors include:

- Citizen of the United States.
- Live in the city or county that issued the summons.
- Speak and understand the English language.
- Physically and mentally able.
- Have not served on a jury in the past 12 months.
- Have not been convicted of a felony.

Individuals over the age of 70 may request to opt out of jury service.

An Overview of Jury Duty in Michigan (Brochure)

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/pamphlets/juryduty.pdf>



Bill of Rights

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed . . .

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved . . .

BEST OF THE WEB



Elementary – A Day in Court

<http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/day-in-court/courtroom.htm>

This interactive web page shows students the parts of a courtroom, including the jury box. An eight-minute presentation, appropriate for later elementary students, describes courtroom roles.

Middle and High School – Voir Dire (Jury Selection) Simulation

http://www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/schools/lessons/79_dueprocess_voir.html

This lesson from the American Bar Association simulates the jury selection process for a case involving a minor who has been arrested for drinking and driving.