

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO UNDERTAKE MOOT COURT CASE THAT POSES TOUGHEST DECISIONS ACTUAL JUDGES CAN MAKE – TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

LANSING, MI, June 23, 2009 – A group of high school students will tackle one of the most difficult decisions a judge can make – whether to terminate a parent’s rights to a child – in a mock Michigan Supreme Court session taking place at the Michigan Hall of Justice this week.

The 30 participants in “Exploring Careers in the Law,” a program of the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, will prepare and present a moot court, similar to arguments before the Michigan Supreme Court. Instructors include Supreme Court Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office staff, and other legal professionals. Also assisting are Cooley and Michigan State University law school students, who will help the high school students prepare the case.

The week-long program concludes with an oral argument at 11 a.m. in the Michigan Supreme Court courtroom, with student “justices” presiding while other students portray attorneys and Supreme Court staff. A reception follows for students and their families.

Rachael Drenovsky, Learning Center Coordinator, said, “Students often acquire their view of legal careers from made-for-television programs that are not an accurate depiction of courts and courtroom conduct. Our goal is to provide students with a real-life view of legal issues as well as appropriate courtroom demeanor as they ponder legal careers.”

Sessions take place from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Michigan Hall of Justice, located at 925 West Ottawa Street, Lansing.

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