

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

contact: Marcia McBrien | (313) 972-3219 or (517) 373-0129

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### **Additional contacts:**

Patrick Paterno, Comcast  
[patrick\\_paterno@cable.comcast.com](mailto:patrick_paterno@cable.comcast.com) / (248) 233-4608

Bill Trevarthen, Michigan Government Television  
[billt@mgtv.org](mailto:billt@mgtv.org) / (517) 373-4250

Barbara Browne, Michigan Supreme Court  
[browneb@courts.mi.gov](mailto:browneb@courts.mi.gov) / (517) 373-0714

David Frankel, Wayne RESA  
[franked@resa.net](mailto:franked@resa.net) / (734) 334-1378

David Hales, Wayne RESA  
[halesd@resa.net](mailto:halesd@resa.net) / (734) 334-1311

### **“CSI: COURTS, SPEED, AND IMPLICATIONS” OFFERS LOOK AT MICHIGAN COURT SYSTEM; JANUARY 25 EDUCATIONAL WEBCAST, VIDEO TO BE RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS STATEWIDE**

LANSING, MI, January 17, 2008 – A fleeing offender. A high-speed chase on Michigan freeways. A collision that ends in two deaths.

Was it murder – first-degree felony murder, to be specific? That is the question that Michigan high school students and their teachers will explore with the aid of “CSI: Courts, Speed, and Implications,” a web-based video conference. Co-Sponsors include Comcast, Michigan Government Television, the Michigan Supreme Court, and the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency.

The January 25 program, which begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at noon, will feature an overview of the state justice system, followed by analysis of an actual court case, *People v Gillis*, that progressed from the trial level to the Michigan Supreme Court.

Durrell Carter, a student at Renaissance High School in Detroit, and Mike Shonce, a student at Livonia’s Stevenson High School, will join MGTV Executive Director Bill Trevarthen as moderators. Panelists will include Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor, Court of Appeals Judge Christopher M. Murray, St. Clair County Circuit Judge James P. Adair,

Wayne County Probate Judge Freddie G. Burton, Jr., and 36<sup>th</sup> District Court Chief Judge Marilyn E. Atkins. Also on the panel will be Timothy P. Flynn, a partner in the Clarkston law firm of Karlstrom Cooney L.L.P., and Timothy K. Morris, Chief of Appeals for the St. Clair County Prosecutor's Office. Flynn and Morris argued before the Supreme Court in the *Gillis* case.

The first part of the program will focus on the roles that the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, circuit court, probate court, and district court play in the state justice system. The second part of the program will follow *People v Gillis* – a case that involved home invasion, a high-speed chase that ended in the deaths of two people, and first-degree felony murder charges – from district court to the Supreme Court. Panelists and students will discuss the legal issues raised in the *Gillis* case, focusing on whether the defendant was properly convicted of first-degree felony murder for the two deaths.

Students in the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions of the panelists. Students participating via Internet can e-mail questions to [answers@resa.net](mailto:answers@resa.net).

The program will be carried live on <http://www.mistreamnet.com> and taped to air on the MGTV network. DVDs of the program will also be available through Wayne RESA and MGTV.

Taylor said the program “meets a need for an educational resource that’s specific to Michigan courts. It’s critical that young people understand and appreciate the role that the state justice system plays in government and in daily life.”

The program is part of MGTV’s public education mission, said Trevarthen. “To date, our programs about the court system have focused mainly on the federal Constitution and decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court,” he said. “Our goal with ‘CSI’ is to give students an in-depth look at the state system, using a real-life case.”

Wayne RESA Social Studies Consultant David Hales noted that Wayne RESA consultants and classroom teachers helped design the curriculum for the event with an eye to new state education standards. “The conference addresses the newly-adopted Michigan Department of Education Social Studies Benchmarks K1.6, P1.2, P1.3, P2.4 and Civics Benchmarks 3.4.5 and 5.4.2,” Hales said.

In addition to local students, attendees will include international guests with an interest in curriculum development and civic education. International attendees hail from Algeria, Egypt, Gaza, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen, and are visiting through the U.S. Department of State and International Visitors Council Leadership Program.

Michigan Government Television (MGTV) is a public affairs initiative of Michigan’s cable television industry. MGTV’s programming includes live and tape-delayed coverage of Michigan Supreme Court oral arguments. Programming, schedules and more information are available at <http://www.mgtv.org>.

Wayne RESA provides a broad spectrum of services and support to Wayne County's 34 school districts. More information is available at <http://www.resa.net>.

More information about the Michigan Supreme Court is available at the Michigan Courts web site at <http://www.courts.mi.gov>.

Comcast (<http://www.comcast.com>) is a provider of cable, entertainment and communications products and services. Comcast is principally involved in the development, management and operation of broadband cable networks and in the delivery of programming content.

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