

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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### **“CSI: COURTS, SPEED, AND IMPLICATIONS” TO AIR ON MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT TV ON FEB. 1; PROGRAM OFFERS LOOK AT MICHIGAN COURTS SYSTEM, IS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS CURRICULUM STANDARDS**

LANSING, MI, January 29, 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 can explore with the aid of “CSI: Courts, Speed, and Implications,” a Jan. 25 web-based video conference which will re-air on Michigan Government Television on Feb. 1 at 10 a.m.

The program features 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.

The program includes video clips, provided by MGTV, of the actual Supreme Court oral argument in *Gillis*. Since 1995, MGTV has worked with the Court to broadcast its proceedings and bring the Court’s oral arguments to citizens throughout Michigan.

Co-sponsors of “CSI” include MGTV, Comcast, the Michigan Supreme Court, and the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency.

Durrell Carter, a student at Renaissance High School in Detroit, and Mike Shonce, a student at Livonia’s Stevenson High School, served as moderators with MGTV Executive Director Bill Trevarthen. Panelists included Michigan Supreme Court Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., 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 were 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 were involved in the Supreme Court proceedings in the *Gillis* case.

The first part of the program focuses 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 follows *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 discussed 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.

The program may also be viewed on <http://www.mistreamnet.com>. In addition, DVDs of the program will be available through Wayne RESA and MGTV.

The program is part of MGTV’s public education mission, said Trevarthen. “Until ‘CSI,’ our programs about the judicial branch focused mainly on the federal Constitution and decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court,” Trevarthen 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.

Michigan Government Television (MGTV), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation, is a public affairs initiative created and funded by Michigan’s cable television industry. MGTV’s programming includes live and tape-delayed coverage of Michigan Supreme Court oral arguments. See MGTV’s web site at <http://www.mgtv.org> for availability and channel locations.

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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