



# MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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## **Supreme Court Makes Historic Visit to Cass Tech High School**

DETROIT, MI, October 25, 2017 – The Michigan Supreme Court today heard oral arguments at Cass Technical High School in Detroit. The event marked the 21<sup>st</sup> time the Court went on the road to a local community to hear arguments, but the first time the Court visited a Detroit school. The case, [\*People v Elisah Kyle Thomas\*](#), involved whether police are permitted to show a crime victim a single photo of a suspect (such as one taken by a smart phone), or does such a procedure create a substantial likelihood of misidentification?

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Stephen J. Markman said, “The Court hopes that the Community Connections program will introduce students to the role of appellate courts in the legal process, while inspiring them to better understand the contributions of lawyers and judges in furthering our country’s rule of law.”

“I want our children to be exposed to the appellate process in hopes that some would want a career in the legal industry,” said Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones. “This event will give Detroit students a chance to ask questions and interact with Supreme Court justices and litigating attorneys, while they observe an actual hearing.”

More than 700 Detroit Public Schools Community District students participated in the historic event, including attendees from: Bates Academy, Benjamin Carson High School for Science and Medicine, Burton International Academy, Cass Tech, Clippert Multicultural Magnet Honors Academy, Detroit International Academy for Young Women, East English Village Preparatory Academy, Fisher Magnet Upper Academy, Ludington Magnet Middle School, Mackenzie High School, Martin Luther King Jr. Sr. High School, Neinas Dual Language Learning Academy, Renaissance High School, and Western International High School. Prior to the event, local attorney mentors visited the schools to teach about the appellate process and to brief students on the case.

“I want to personally thank Council President Jones for making this opportunity happen,” said Detroit Public Schools Community District Superintendent Dr. Nikolai Vitti. “Our students need more of these learning experiences to allow our day-to-day instruction to connect with the real world. We have no idea how impactful this day could mean to many of the students who participated in the event. We could have inspired any one of our students to now pursue a career as an attorney or create the pathway for a future judge. This is what education is about!”

“One of my most interesting experiences as Chief Judge was to attend last year the oral argument of a Michigan Supreme Court case at River Rouge High School,” said Chief Judge Robert J. Colombo, Jr., of the Third Judicial Circuit (Wayne County). “This gave me an opportunity to talk to the justices of the Supreme Court and judges in the area. The attorneys’ arguments were educational for students, lay people, lawyers, and judges.”

“As a graduate of Cass Tech, I was thrilled that it was selected as the first school in the city of Detroit to host such an inspiring event,” said Chief Judge Nancy M. Blount of the 36th District Court (Detroit). “I am confident that this event will spark a desire to serve and encourage more students to learn about the law.”

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