

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEACHERS, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CAN EXPERIENCE ‘MOOT COURT’ THROUGH SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER SUMMER PROGRAMS

LANSING, MI, March 8, 2012 – This summer, teachers and students alike can experience what it’s like to argue a case before the Michigan Supreme Court, thanks to programs being offered by the Court’s Learning Center.

Rachael Drenovsky, the Learning Center’s coordinator, explained that both programs feature participation in a “moot court,” in which participants prepare and argue a case. “The goal is to have the participants experience, in a very realistic way, what it’s like to argue a case before the Michigan Supreme Court,” she said. “We not only learn about the legal system, but also sharpen the skills a good lawyer needs: reasoning, writing, and oral presentation. The teachers’ program will focus on how educators can use moot courts as a teaching tool.”

Both programs will be based on a real-life case that the Supreme Court heard earlier this year. Participants will meet and work with attorneys and other legal professionals; presenters will include justices of the Michigan Supreme Court. The programs will be held at the [Michigan Hall of Justice](#) in Lansing.

The high school program, “Exploring Careers in the Law,” is open to students entering grades 10 through 12 in fall 2011. Participants meet June 25 – 29 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day. The application deadline is May 11, 2012. The registration fee is a \$75 donation to the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society Learning Center Fund.

The teachers’ workshop, “Moot Court in your Classroom,” will be held August 1–2. Teachers will receive materials appropriate for a high school audience. The application deadline is June 15, 2012. The registration fee is a \$50 donation to the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society Learning Center Fund.

Registration for each program is limited to 22 participants, selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Rachael L. Drenovsky at drenovskyr@courts.mi.gov or (517) 373-5027. Applications and additional information are available at <http://www.courts.mi.gov/plc/>.

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