



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan Supreme Court Goes on the Road to Traverse City Central High School

TRAVERSE CITY, MI, October 14, 2019 - The Michigan Supreme Court will be hearing oral arguments at Traverse City Central High School on October 16, 2019. The 10 a.m. public hearing is the 25th time the Court has gone on the road for “Court Community Connections,” a public education program aimed at engaging high school students. The event also includes a public debriefing following oral argument in which students get to ask questions of the attorneys who argued the case.

“We love taking the Court to the people, especially students,” said Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack. “By engaging the public, we build trust in the judiciary and that trust is the cornerstone of our democracy. As an added bonus, we hope to inspire students to become lawyers and judges.”

In attendance will be hundreds of students from Traverse City Central High School and Traverse City West Senior High School. Also in attendance will be Grand Traverse County judges and local elected officials. Area attorneys previously visited the high schools to mentor students regarding Michigan’s judiciary, the appellate process, and the key legal issues involved in the case being heard. The case, *Maniaci v Diroff*, concerns whether proposed alterations to an easement defy a consent agreement previously agreed to by both defendant and plaintiff.

"We are honored to host the Michigan Supreme Court and to be able to provide this unique opportunity for our students to witness the judicial process in action," said Ann Cardon, superintendent of Traverse City Area Public Schools. "The ability to ask questions and be up close and personal with the highest court in the state may inspire some students to seek a career within the judicial branch, where before they may never have even considered it."

“The Supreme Court of Michigan may be based out of the Hall of Justice in Lansing, but its decisions make huge impacts in the lives of those in Grand Traverse County,” remarked Chief Judge Thomas Power. “This visit gives the public access to the Supreme Court and gives the Supreme Court access to the public.

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NOTE: Media should plan on arriving no later than 9:30 a.m. The event will begin at approximately 9:45 a.m. with oral argument starting at 10 a.m., followed by the public debriefing at 10:30 a.m. At approximately 11:00 a.m. students will participate in a reception with the Justices and all will be available at that time for interviews. Media planning to video or audio record the hearing, please contact Lynn Seaks at 517-373-0129 or SeaksL@courts.mi.gov.