

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Court of Appeals, Division 2

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Arizona Court of Appeals to Hear Arguments in Criminal Appeal at University High School in Tucson

PHOENIX – Division Two of the Arizona Court of Appeals will be holding arguments at University High School on September 20, 2016. This is a rare opportunity to witness the judicial branch of government at work and watch attorneys present a real case to three judges from the Arizona Court of Appeals.

The judges have identified State of Arizona v. Matthew Snyder, 2-CA-CR 2015-0077 and attorneys representing each side will have 25 minutes to present their case. The case involves a Tucson man who was confronted and detained on suspicion of shoplifting. A search of Snyder's backpack revealed a pistol and a handgun, a small bag believed to contain drugs, and ammunition.

A jury convicted Snyder of two counts of possession of a deadly weapon by a prohibited possessor, one count of possession of a dangerous drug, and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia. The trial court sentenced Snyder to concurrent prison terms, the longer of which is 2.5 years.

Snyder appealed, citing four key flaws he believes occurred in the handling of his case at the trial court level.

The Court of Appeals is not an evidence-taking court, so there will not be witnesses or cross-examinations such as commonly depicted on television courtroom dramas. The focus of the arguments will be on Arizona law and the matters on appeal.

After the case, the Court of Appeals judges will take questions from the audience, as long as those questions do not pertain to the case they just heard. Details are as follows:

Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 9:30 AM
University High School
421 North Arcadia Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85711

For more information about the justices or court system in Arizona, please go to www.azcourts.gov.

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News reporters who have questions about this event should contact Heather Murphy, Communications Director for the Arizona Courts at 602-452-3656 or hmurphy@courts.az.gov.

For information about the University High School campus, please contact Principal Amy Cislak at 520-232-5900 or Amy.Cislak@tusd1.org.