

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Court of Appeals, Division 2

Contact: Heather Murphy
Telephone: (602) 452-3656
Cell: (602) 448-8412
hmurphy@courts.az.gov

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Arizona Court of Appeals Visiting Pinal County for Student Events at Two High Schools

TUCSON – Division Two of the Arizona Court of Appeals, in conjunction with the Superior Court in Pinal County, will be holding a new type of student interaction event at two different schools. Judges will visit Florence High School and Casa Grande Union High School on Thursday, November 17, 2016. Students will have face-to-face classroom contact with judges from the Arizona Court of Appeals, as well as from the Superior Court in Pinal County.

“This is a new, two-part format that we are launching. First, in what we are calling *Pathways to the Bench*, we will briefly discuss our diverse backgrounds and how we came to be on the Court,” Division Two Court of Appeals Chief Judge Peter Eckerstrom explained. “Then we are going to begin *Fundamentals of the Courts and Law*, which will involve interactive dialogue about how the courts work in Arizona, how the decision-making process works, the kinds of cases we tackle, the role of the judiciary, and so forth.”

On Thursday, November 17, the Court of Appeals and Superior Court Judges will split into two groups with judges from both courts visiting Florence and Casa Grande Union High Schools from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

After the classroom visits, the judges will convene at the Pinal County Historic 1891 Courthouse in Florence for a meeting and luncheon with Superior Court judges and staff. During lunch, judges from the trial courts and appeals court will discuss challenges and opportunities related to recent rule changes, jurisdictional issues, juvenile courts, and other matters.

Both efforts aim to improve court and community participation, one of the goals outlined in the Arizona Supreme Court’s Strategic Agenda called *Advancing Justice Together: Courts & Communities*. This document outlines strategic initiatives for all of the court in Arizona.

“We hope that this new format is a successful event that we can replicate in all of the counties served by Division Two of the Court of Appeals,” Chief Judge Eckerstrom said.

Division Two hears appeals from courts in Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal and Santa Cruz counties. Six judges serve on Division Two of the Arizona Court of Appeals. There are also five staff attorneys, a Clerk of the Court of Appeals office, and support personnel who help schedule or prepare cases for court.

For more information about the court system, please go to www.azcourts.gov.

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News reporters planning to attend the school events should make arrangements with Donna McBride at Pinal County Juvenile Court by calling 520-866-4405 or emailing dmcbride@courts.az.gov.