



News Release

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WESTERN TO HOST MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS

St. Joseph, Mo. —Oct. 3, 2006—For the ninth consecutive year, the Missouri court of Appeals, Western District, will convene court at Missouri Western State University. Court will begin at 9 a.m. Oct. 11 in Leah Spratt Hall, Kemper Recital Hall.

A three-judge panel consisting of Ronald R. Holliger, Edwin H. Smith and Lisa White Hardwick will hear oral arguments in four cases. Chief Judge Victor C. Howard explained that the cases are appeals from previously held trial in the area circuit courts.

The judges will hear attorneys argue whether the trials had errors that should cause them to be retried, or the trial court's judgment reversed, he said. The judges will read written arguments before the court session, he added, and may interrupt the attorneys' arguments with questions.

Sometime during the arguments, the judges will break to explain the judicial system in general and the appellate judiciary.

The Court, regularly convening in Kansas City, Mo., has made it a practice to convene yearly in St. Joseph. Its jurisdiction is appeals from trial courts in 45 counties in western and central Missouri.

"It is important for the Court to convene oral arguments outside of Kansas City," Howard said. "This gives individuals an opportunity to observe a part of the judicial system they normally do not see. We hope those attending will gain a better understanding of the Court's function."

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Page 2 of 2 – Court of Appeals

Hollinger will preside over the proceedings at Western. He was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2000. Immediately prior to his appointment, he served as a circuit judge in Jackson County. Prior to judicial service, he practiced law in Kansas City, Mo. Smith served as an associate circuit judge for nine years and a circuit for six years in Andrew and Buchanan counties prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeals in 1995. He recently completed a two year term as chief judge of the Western District. Hardwick was a circuit judge in Jackson County immediately prior to her 2001 appointment to the Court of Appeals. Prior to judicial service, she practiced law for 14 years in Kansas City, Mo.

During the past 15 years, the court has held sessions in the Missouri cities of Chillicothe, Clinton, Columbia, Fulton, Gallatin, Huntsville, Independence, Jefferson City, Kirksville, Lexington, Liberty, Linneus, Macon, Marshall, Maryville, Nevada, Platte City, Richmond, St. Joseph, Savannah, Trenton, Tuscumbia and Warrensburg.

For more information, please contact Larry Andrews, professor of criminal justice, at 816-271-4219.

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Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.