



# MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Supreme Court Makes Historic Visit to Cass Tech High School

Detroit, MI, October 25, 2017 – The Michigan Supreme Court today heard oral arguments at Cass Technical High School in Detroit. The event marked the 21<sup>st</sup> time the Court went on the road to a local community to hear arguments, but the first time the Court visited a Detroit school. The case, [People v Elisah Kyle Thomas](#), involved whether police are permitted to show a crime victim a single photo of a suspect (such as one taken by a smart phone), or does such a procedure create a substantial likelihood of misidentification?

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Stephen J. Markman said: “The Court hopes that the Community Connections program will introduce students to the role of appellate courts in the legal process, while inspiring them to better understand the contributions of lawyers and judges in furthering our country’s rule of law.”

“This historic visit of the Michigan Supreme Court is all about our kids,” said Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones. “Our goal is for the students to not just learn about the court system but to lead it as lawyers and judges who serve the people and defend our rights.”

More than 700 students participated in the historic event, including attendees from: Cass Tech, King, East English, Detroit International Academy, Western, Ben Carson, Renaissance, Mackenzie, Burton International, Bates, Neinas, Clippert Academy, Ludington Magnet Middle School, and Fisher Upper School. Prior to the event, local attorney mentors visited the schools to teach students about the appellate process and to brief them on the case.

“Students learn best through experiencing history firsthand,” said Detroit Public Schools Community District Superintendent Nikolai Vitti. “History was made at Cass Tech today, and students from across the district saw it happen in person.”

“One of my most interesting experiences as Chief Judge was to attend last year the oral argument of a Michigan Supreme Court case at River Rouge High School,” said Chief Judge Robert J. Colombo, Jr. of the Third Judicial Circuit (Wayne County). “This gave me an opportunity to talk to the justices of the Supreme Court and judges in the area. The attorneys’ arguments were educational for students, lay people, lawyers, and judges.”

“As a graduate of Cass Tech, I was thrilled that it was selected as the first school in the City of Detroit to host such an inspiring event,” said Chief Judge Nancy M. Blount of the 36th District Court (Detroit). “I am confident that this event will spark a desire to serve and encourage more students to learn about the law.”

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