



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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Court of Appeals Convenes in Kingston, New York

*The High Court's Visit Commemorates the 200-Year Anniversary
of the Rebuilding of Kingston's Historic Ulster County Courthouse*

Kingston, New York – The Court of Appeals traveled south to Kingston, New York, to hold session today at the Ulster County Courthouse where, among other historic events, renowned abolitionist Sojourner Truth successfully argued an 1828 case that saved her son from being sold into slavery. The Court of Appeals' visit, one of a series of events marking the 200-year anniversary of the rebuilding of the historic Kingston courthouse, aims to provide students and others from Ulster County and nearby the opportunity to get a close-up view of New York's highest court at work.

The Court of Appeals hears criminal and civil appeals from the State's mid-level appellate courts and sometimes directly from the trial courts, generally focusing on broad issues of law as distinguished from individual factual disputes. Its members are Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, who also serves as Chief Judge of the New York State court system, and Associate Judges Jenny Rivera, Eugene M. Fahey, Leslie E. Stein, Michael J. Garcia, Rowan D. Wilson and Paul G. Feinman.

The Court traditionally sits in Court of Appeals Hall in Albany. Chief Judge DiFiore, who since her appointment in 2016 has made it a priority to enhance the court system's public outreach efforts, has worked to increase the frequency of the Court's visits to other parts of the State. The Court last held a session outside Albany in April 2017, when it sat at the Richard J. Daronco Westchester County Courthouse in White Plains. This will mark the Court's first visit to Kingston.

The Court is hosting 135 students and teachers from six Ulster County high schools and Marist College. The participating high schools are Wallkill High School, New Paltz High School, John A. Coleman High School, Kingston High School, Mount Academy and Hudson Valley Pathways Academy.

The students will observe the Court of Appeals in session and then meet with Chief Judge DiFiore and the Associate Judges to discuss its work. The students will also hear about the Ulster County Court's history from retired Court of Appeals Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt, who serves as President of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of the New York Courts.

During today's session, the Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in three cases. Among the legal issues to be examined is whether a sentencing court has the authority to require the defendant to pay for an electronic monitoring program as a condition of probation. The students and their teachers have reviewed the briefs in this case, *People v. Hakes*.

"The Associate Judges and I always look forward to bringing the Court of Appeals—whose work can be far-reaching—to different regions of the State. These visits enable more New Yorkers to see firsthand the State's highest court in action, learn about the variety of matters that come before the Court and gain understanding about its decision-making process. My court colleagues and I are especially delighted to be meeting with local students as we celebrate the Ulster County Courthouse's significant role in the history of New York and our nation. I want to thank Ulster County's Commissioner of Jurors, Paul O'Neill, and County Clerk, Nina Postupak, for their support in making this visit possible, and for their tremendous efforts, working with the New York State Archives, in planning today's exhibits and other events in tribute to this beautifully designed, historic site. I am also grateful to Judge Rosenblatt for his participation today and his ongoing contributions to the Historical Society of the New York Courts," said Chief Judge DiFiore.

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