Administrative Office of the Courts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COURT OF APPEALS TO HOLD HEARING AT LAGUNA-ACOMA HIGH SCHOOL

ALBUQUERQUE – Students at Laguna-Acoma High School will have an opportunity to better understand New Mexico's judicial system when the Court of Appeals hears arguments at the school in a criminal case.

Students in grades 9-12 at this Cibola County school will be able to watch Thursday as lawyers appear before a panel of three judges in a case involving an Albuquerque man appealing his conviction on drug charges. After the arguments, judges will take questions from students.

The Court of Appeals is not a trial court and there will be no witnesses testifying. The hour-long arguments will focus on questions of law, including whether a police officer properly detained the defendant and seized drugs during an arrest in April 2012. At issue are questions regarding constitutional protections against unlawful searches and seizures.

The court usually takes cases under advisement after hearing arguments and then issues a written decision later.

The Court of Appeals travels to schools around the state about four times a year to hear arguments in cases.

News media interested in covering the hearing should check in advance at the school's front desk. The school is about 50 miles west of Albuquerque.

TIME: 10 a.m.
DATE: Thursday, March 10
PLACE: Laguna-Acoma High School, State Route 23, Casa Blanca, NM

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