



FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
May 14, 2007

Contact: Nancy Peters, Communications Specialist, 612-348-5022
Nancy.Peters@courts.state.mn.us

Fourth Judicial District to Convene at Roosevelt High School for Students to Observe Court in Action

(Minneapolis)—The Fourth Judicial District will convene at Roosevelt High School, 4029 28th Ave So., Minneapolis, MN, 55406, at 10:35 a.m., Wednesday, May 16, 2007. The Court will conduct a Rasmussen hearing and consider arguments in a real case – *State of Minnesota vs. Terry Calvin Davis, defendant*.

Fourth Judicial District Chief Judge Lucy Wieland will give students a brief introduction to the proceedings. Judge Toddrick Barnette will preside over the Rasmussen hearing, including testimony from witnesses and argument from attorneys. The purpose of the Rasmussen hearing is to determine if there is sufficient probable cause to proceed to trial. In this case, the defendant is charged with felony possession of a controlled substance in the fifth degree while in possession of a firearm, which was alleged to have occurred in Minneapolis on November 28, 2006.

More than 100 of Roosevelt High School's students will watch the Rasmussen hearing and participate in a question and answer session, if time permits.

Media are welcome to attend this court session. Please refer to the schedule below. Also attached is the "Cameras in the Courtroom" policy, which will be followed during the hearing.

One of the Judicial Branch's top strategic priorities is to increase public trust and confidence by strengthening public education regarding the role of the courts. This is the first time the Fourth Judicial District has convened at Roosevelt High School.

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

9:45 a.m.

Media cameras must be set up. Please call Jamie Smith, Fourth Judicial District Public Affairs Communications Assistant, at (612) 596-9271 at least 24 hours in advance to reserve a place. Reserved seating will be available for media.

10:35 a.m.

Welcome (Roosevelt High School Auditorium, 4029 28th Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN, 55406). School staff welcomes students and introduces Fourth Judicial District Court Chief Judge Lucy Wieland. Judge Wieland gives a brief orientation of the court system and explains how the case came to District Court before the Rasmussen hearing begins.

12:00 p.m.

Hearing ends.

CAMERAS IN THE COURTROOM POLICY:

The following rules are established for audio and video coverage of the Fourth Judicial District Court at Roosevelt High School:

- Notice of intent to cover court proceedings by either audio or video means shall be given by the media to the District Court Public Affairs Office at least 24 hours prior to the time of the intended coverage by calling (612) 596-9271.
- Camerapersons, technicians and photographers covering a proceeding shall avoid activities which might distract participants or impair the dignity of the proceedings; shall remain within the restricted areas designated by the Court; shall observe the customs of the Court; shall conduct themselves in keeping with Court decorum; and shall not dress in a manner which sets them duly apart from the participants in the proceedings.
- Exact locations for all camera and video equipment in the auditorium shall be determined by the Public Affairs Office. All equipment shall be in place and tested 30 minutes in advance of the time the Court is called to order and shall be unobtrusive. All wiring shall be safely and securely taped to the floor along the walls. Only existing auditorium lighting shall be used.
- Cameras are free to move around the auditorium during the question and answer portion of the program.

About the Fourth Judicial District

The State of Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District serves only Hennepin County and is the state's largest trial court with more than 750,000 cases received annually. The mission of the Fourth Judicial District is to provide a system of Justice that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies

Sixty-two judges, 15 referees and more than 550 staff serve in these courts: Civil, Criminal / Traffic (including Domestic Violence, Drug, Alcohol and the Community Impact and Property Calendars), Juvenile, Probate / Mental Health, Family, Housing and Conciliation. Fourth Judicial District judges and staff strive to offer an accessible, fair, courteous, efficient and innovative system of Justice for its communities.

Fourth Judicial District facilities in downtown Minneapolis are located at the Hennepin County Government Center, Public Safety Facility, Juvenile Justice Center, Family Justice Center and City Hall. The suburban court facilities are located in Brooklyn Center (Brookdale / Division II), Minnetonka (Ridgedale / Division III) and Edina (Southdale / Division IV). For more information, please visit our website at www.mncourts.gov/district/4/