



# WELCOME TO THE SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA

## COMING TO WATCH ORAL ARGUMENT? HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

## JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA

The Supreme Court of Virginia is located at 100 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Richmond, Virginia, directly across the street from the Virginia Capitol building. The main courtroom is located on the first floor, which is accessible on the 9<sup>th</sup> Street side of the building. This entrance is handicap accessible. Doors open at 8:00. The Clerk's Office opens at 8:15.

### Arguments before the Supreme Court of Virginia are open to the public.

A list of cases being heard during a session of the Court is available at <http://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/docket.pdf>. Upon arriving at the courthouse, you must check in with Capitol Police. You will need to state the purpose of your visit and will then pass through metal detectors similar to those found at airports. All bags, purses, packages and briefcases will be x-rayed. Please note that backpacks are not permitted in the building. Failure to cooperate with these requirements will result in the denial of entry to the building.

No weapons are allowed in the building except those carried by Capitol Police personnel and uniformed law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties.

**Cell phones or other electronic devices**, including smart watches, laptops, tablets, and Google glasses, are strictly forbidden from the building during court sessions and writ panels arguments. However, if advance permission has been requested and given by

the Chief Justice, an approved electronic device may be brought into the courtroom for use in a case once the Capitol Police have screened the device. Otherwise, you must leave such items at home or in your vehicle.

### During Argument

Once you are seated in the courtroom, you must remain silent while arguments are ongoing. You must pay attention during arguments, meaning you may not read a newspaper or book, and if you appear to be sleeping, an officer will approach you. Food or drinks – including water and chewing gum – are not allowed in the courtroom. Capitol Police will remove anyone from the courtroom not in compliance. You may only enter and exit the courtroom in between the cases or during the recess.

### Information for Persons Arguing Cases to Full Court

When you arrive, you must present your photo ID to Capitol Police and advise them of the case for which you are present. You must then check in with the Deputy Clerk in the courtroom **no later than 8:50 a.m.** to receive instructions. Please be on time. Court begins at 9:00 a.m. and the order of cases is subject to change without notice.

If you have received prior permission from the Court to use a demonstrative exhibit and you require an easel, please notify the Clerk's Office the day before your argument.



### In This Photo:

**Top left to right:** Hon. Stephen R. McCullough, Hon. Cleo E. Powell, Hon. S. Bernard Goodwyn, Hon. Donald W. Lemons, Chief Justice, Hon. William C. Mims, Hon. D. Arthur Kelsey, and Hon. Teresa M. Chafin. **Floor left to right:** Karl R. Hade, Executive Secretary and Douglas B. Robelen, Clerk of the Court

Attorneys who are admitted *pro hac vice* and arguing a case must be introduced by local counsel at the onset of argument.

Clients are not permitted at counsel tables except in cases originating out of the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission.

Arguments are being recorded and the microphone at the podium is for that purpose. The week after session has concluded, recordings of the oral arguments can be found at [http://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/oral\\_arguments/home.html](http://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/oral_arguments/home.html).