



About Oral Arguments

- ❖ At oral argument, the attorneys for each side of a case argue the legal issues before a panel consisting of three justices.
- ❖ Each side of the case has 15 minutes to argue. During the 15 minutes, the justices may pose questions to the attorneys.
- ❖ During a typical oral argument session, the panel of justices hears six cases, usually three criminal and three civil.



Please direct any questions about this program to:

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A Peek Inside the Judicial Branch: *Massachusetts Appeals Court* *Virtual Oral Arguments*

Founded in 1972, the Appeals Court is the intermediate appellate court in the Massachusetts judicial system. The Appeals Court is composed of twenty-five justices who decide over 1,000 cases each year. Three justices preside as a "panel" hearing oral arguments presented by attorneys and parties in criminal and civil appeals involving a range of legal questions. Learn more about the Appeals Court [here](#).

Typically, cases are argued before the Appeals Court at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston and are open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Appeals Court oral arguments are now being conducted through videoconference and are broadcasted live to the [Massachusetts Appeals Court Oral Arguments YouTube channel \(link\)](#). Oral arguments will be live broadcasted throughout May, June, and July; the oral argument schedule can be found on the [court's calendar \(link\)](#). All sessions are recorded and available on the YouTube channel.

May 6, 2020 Oral Arguments
310 views • Streamed live on May 6, 2020

Massachusetts Appeals Court Oral Arguments
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This virtual format presents an opportunity for Massachusetts citizens, including students and educators, to view their judicial branch in action.

Justices of the Appeals Court may be available to speak to educational groups about the role of the judicial branch and the Appeals Court to give context to oral arguments. We hope that the Appeals Court's oral arguments can provide an interesting and unique educational resource to educators during this unprecedented time.