



NEWS RELEASE

Kathy Funke, Director
News & Information Services
812/465-7005
FAX 812/465-1096
E-mail kfunke@usi.edu
<http://www.usi.edu/events.htm>

For immediate release
March 24, 2000

Superior Court to hear appeal and arguments at USI

To bring the workings of the judicial system closer to the people it serves, the Indiana Court of Appeals will hear oral argument at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, in Mitchell Auditorium, Health Professions Center, University of Southern Indiana. The public is encouraged to attend. Normal courtroom rules of decorum will apply.

A three-judge panel including Judge Melissa Mattingly, Judge John Baker, and Judge L. Mark Bailey will hear the case of *Southern Gibson School Board v. Trent Sollman, Donald Sollman, and Marilyn Sollman*.

The case involves a high school student who was expelled after police discovered marijuana in the student's car during a search of the high school parking lot. Additionally, the student was denied credit for coursework occurring in the first semester. The school board upheld the student's expulsion, but the Gibson Superior Court partially reversed the school board's decision. The court ruled that the expulsion should end before summer school and that it was improper for the student to be summarily denied credit for first semester course work. The school board now appeals the Superior Court's ruling.

The case will be argued by appellant's attorney J. Robert Kinkle of Princeton, Indiana, and appellees' attorney Ray Druley of Fort Branch, Indiana.

Each side will be given 30 minutes to argue their case. Often, the judges will ask questions during the presentation. The panel of judges will take the arguments under advisement and issue an opinion in the near future.

Due to the Code of Judicial Conduct, the judges will not be able to answer any specific questions about the case, but can respond to general inquiries about the legal system. The judges will be available for photographs before and after the oral arguments.

This argument continues a series of oral arguments in communities throughout Indiana. The three-judge panels have already conducted several arguments at a host of Indiana schools and universities.

For special accommodations, call Ms. Linda Cleek, associate director of Extended Services, 812/464-1863.