



# news

Colorado Judicial Branch  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Colorado Court of Appeals to hear arguments at Mitchell High School on Tuesday, Feb. 12**

DENVER – The Colorado Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in two cases on Tuesday, February 12, 2013, at Mitchell High School in Colorado Springs before an audience of students. The public also is invited to attend.

The visit is part of the Colorado Judicial Branch's *Courts in the Community*, the outreach program the Colorado Supreme Court and Court of Appeals initiated on Law Day (May 1), 1986. The *Courts in the Community* program was developed to give Colorado high school students firsthand experience in how the Colorado judicial system works and illustrate how disputes are resolved in a democratic society. These are not mock proceedings. The court will hear arguments in actual cases from which it will issue opinions. The court generally issues opinions within a few weeks of the arguments.

The 22 judges of the Colorado Court of Appeals sit in divisions of three judges to hear cases. Judges hearing cases at Mitchell High School are Alan Loeb (presiding), Richard L. Gabriel, and Stephanie Dunn.

The two cases are:

- **Michael Sackel v. Ronald Phillips; Timothy Nester; Comcast Cable Communications LLC; and Comcast Cable Communications Holdings Inc.:** Michael Sackel, a former regional director of security for Comcast Communications, has asked the Court of Appeals to review a trial judge's decision to dismiss his wrongful termination case against Comcast. Mr. Sackel wants the chance to return to trial court to present his case, in which he has claimed he was terminated for reasons that had nothing to do with his job performance. Comcast has argued that Mr. Sackel signed a waiver releasing the company from any claims related to his employment at or termination from Comcast.

- **People of the State of Colorado v. Lewis Burton Ridgeway:** Lewis Ridgeway is asking the Court of Appeals to review certain legal aspects of his conviction and three-year prison sentence for possessing burglary tools. Mr. Ridgeway was a passenger in a Jeep that was pulled over by a police officer. A search of the Jeep turned up a gun, some items that had been stolen from a business earlier that night, and tools that the Jeep's driver identified as "burglary tools." Mr. Ridgeway is arguing that the trial judge's decisions in developing jury instructions hurt his case to the extent that his fair-trial rights were violated, while prosecutors argue the instructions were appropriate.

The proceedings will begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 12, in the auditorium at Mitchell High School, 1205 Potter Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80909. A question-and-answer session, during which the students may ask questions of the attorneys, will follow the arguments in each case. At the conclusion of the second argument, the students also will have the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session with the Court of Appeals judges.

There will be a limited number of seats for the public. Audio recordings from the two arguments will be available online within one to two days of the arguments at [http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Court\\_Of\\_Appeals/Oral\\_Arguments/Index.cfm](http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Court_Of_Appeals/Oral_Arguments/Index.cfm).

**Editor's Note:**

The documents related to these two cases are located at:

<http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Education/Materials.cfm?s=Spring&y=2013>.

Additional information on the Courts in the Community program is available at:

<http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Education/Community.cfm>

News media organizations interested in recording the arguments may contact Jon Sarché at the State Court Administrator's Office. The following pages contain information about expanded media coverage.

We will be reserving seats for journalists. Please contact Jon Sarché at [jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us) or at 720-625-5811 if you plan to attend.

## *Media opportunity*

**What:** Colorado Court of Appeals Oral Arguments  
**When:** 10 a.m. - noon, Feb. 12, 2013  
**Where:** Mitchell High School, 1205 Potter Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80909

**Photo opportunities.** During oral arguments, the requirements set forth in Chapter 38, Rule 2 of the Colorado Supreme Court Rules are in effect. Rule 2 is attached. Highlights include:

- a. A written request for expanded media coverage (form is attached below) must be filed in advance with copies to counsel for the parties.
- b. If granted, only one video camera and/or one still camera is allowed, and that media source must share and pool its coverage with other media.
- c. No flash attachments or lighted television cameras are allowed during the arguments.
- d. The camera operator may use a tripod, but shall not change location while court is in session.

For information, contact Jon Sarché, [jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us), or (720) 625-5811.

**Following each argument, during the question-and-answer interaction between the students, lawyers and judges, access is open for photography and videography without the limitations of Rule 2. All media representatives also are welcome to photograph the luncheon immediately following the cases.**

### **Schedule:**

10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Opening remarks
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	<b><u>12CA921, Sackel v. Phillips et al.</u></b>
10:45 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Judges conference; attorneys answer students' questions
11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<b><u>11CA1077, People v. Ridgeway</u></b>
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Judges conference; attorneys answer students' questions
11:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Judges answer students' questions
12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (est.)	Lunch, judges and selected students

**Request for Expanded Media Coverage.** A written request for expanded media coverage must be submitted to Chris Ryan, clerk of the Court of Appeals, by fax at 720-625-5148 at least one day prior to the proceeding as outlined in Rule 2 (submitting requests earlier is appreciated to allow for response time). A fill-in-the-blank request form is attached below.

## **Expanded media coverage of court proceedings**

The presence of expanded media coverage in the Colorado court system's courtrooms is controlled by strict standards spelled out in Chapter 38, Rule 2 of the Colorado Supreme Court Rules effective July 1, 2010. The rule also outlines each step necessary to garner approval for such coverage.

There are several points in the Rule of particular note:

1. A written request for expanded media coverage must be submitted to the court at least one day before expanded media coverage is requested to begin, unless a longer or shorter time is required or permitted by the court.
2. Copies of the expanded media coverage request shall be mailed or faxed to all counsel for each party participating in the proceeding prior to submitting the request to the court.
3. The request must include a description of the pooling arrangements, including the identity of the designated representatives.
4. Any party or witness may lodge with the judge a written objection to expanded coverage of all or a portion of a proceeding.

### ***Request for expanded media coverage in Colorado state courts***

#### **Rule 2. Media Coverage of Court Proceedings**

**(a) Expanded Media Coverage: A judge may authorize expanded media coverage of court proceedings, subject to the guidelines set forth below.**

(1) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (A) "Proceeding" means any trial, hearing, or any other matter held in open court which the public is entitled to attend.
- (B) "Photograph" and "photography" means all recording or broadcasting of visual images, by means of still photographs, videotape, television broadcasts, motion pictures, or otherwise.
- (C) "Expanded media coverage" means any photography or audio recording of proceedings.
- (D) "Judge" means the justice, judge, magistrate, or other judicial officer presiding over the proceedings. In proceedings with more than one judge presiding, any decision required shall be made by a majority of the judges.
- (E) "Media" means any news gathering or reporting agency and the individual persons involved, and includes newspapers, radio, television, radio and television networks, news services, magazines, trade papers, in-house publications, professional journals, or any other news reporting or news gathering agency whose function it is to inform the public or some segment thereof.

(2) **Standards for Authorizing Coverage.** In determining whether expanded media coverage should be permitted, a judge shall consider the following factors:

- (A) Whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would interfere with the rights of the parties to a fair trial;
- (B) Whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would unduly detract from the solemnity, decorum and dignity of the court; and
- (C) Whether expanded media coverage would create adverse effects which would be greater than those caused by traditional media coverage.

(3) **Limitations on Expanded Media Coverage.** Notwithstanding an authorization to conduct expanded media coverage of a proceeding, there shall be no:

- (A) Expanded media coverage of pretrial hearings in criminal cases, except advisements and arraignments;
- (B) Expanded media coverage of jury voir dire;
- (C) Audio recording or "zoom" close-up photography of bench conferences;

- (D) Audio recording or close-up photography of communications between counsel and client or between co-counsel;
  - (E) Expanded media coverage of in camera hearings;
  - (F) Close-up photography of members of the jury.
- (4) **Authority to Impose Restrictions on Expanded Media Coverage.** A judge may restrict or limit expanded media coverage as may be necessary to preserve the dignity of the court or to protect the parties, witnesses, or jurors. A judge may terminate or suspend expanded media coverage at any time upon making findings of fact that: (1) rules established under this Rule or additional rules imposed by the judge have been violated; or (2) substantial rights of individual participants or rights to a fair trial will be prejudiced by such coverage if it is allowed to continue.
- (5) **Conditions for Coverage.** Expanded media coverage shall be conducted only under the following conditions:
- (A) Equipment Limitations.
    - (i) Video. Only one person at a time shall be permitted to operate a videotape, television, or motion picture camera. There shall be only one such camera at a time in the courtroom, except that, at the discretion of the judge, the camera operator may have a second camera. The camera operator may use a tripod, but shall not change location while court is in session.
    - (ii) Audio. The court's audio system shall be used if technically suitable and, in that event, there must be no interference with the court's use of its system. If the court's system is not technically suitable, then the person conducting expanded media coverage may install an audio recording system at his or her own expense upon first obtaining approval of the judge. All microphones and related wiring shall be unobtrusive and shall not interfere with the movement of those in the courtroom.
    - (iii) Still Cameras. Only one person at a time shall be permitted to operate still cameras, which shall make as little noise as possible. The still photographer may use a tripod, but shall not change location while court is in session.
    - (iv) Lighting. No movie lights, flash attachments, or sudden lighting changes shall be permitted during a proceeding. No modification or addition of lighting equipment shall be permitted without the permission of the judge.
    - (v) Operating Signals. No visible or audible light or signal (tally light) shall be used on any equipment.
  - (B) Pooling Arrangements. The media shall be solely responsible for designating one media representative to conduct each of the categories of expanded media coverage listed in subsection (I) of this section, and for arranging an open and impartial distribution scheme with a distribution point located outside of the courtroom. If no agreement can be reached on either of these matters, then there shall be no expanded media coverage of the type for which no pooling agreement has been made. Neither judges nor other court personnel shall be called upon to resolve any disputes concerning such pooling arrangements.
  - (C) Conduct of Media Representatives. Persons conducting expanded media coverage shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the decorum and dignity of the courtroom. The following practices shall apply:
    - (i) Equipment employed to provide expanded media coverage shall be positioned and operated so as to minimize any distraction;
    - (ii) Identifying marks, call letters, logos, symbols, and legends shall be concealed on all equipment. Persons operating such equipment shall not wear clothing bearing any such identifying information;
    - (iii) Equipment used to provide expanded media coverage shall not be placed in, or removed from, the courtroom while court is in session. No film, videotape, or lens shall be changed within a courtroom while court is in session.
- (6) **Procedures.** The following procedures shall be followed in obtaining authorization for expanded media coverage:
- (A) Request for Expanded Media Coverage. A written request shall be submitted to the judge at least one day before expanded media coverage is requested to begin, unless a longer or shorter

time is required or permitted by the judge. Copies of the request shall be given to counsel for each party participating in the proceeding. The request shall include the following:

- (i) The name, number, date and time of the proceeding;
- (ii) The type (audio, video or still photography) of expanded media coverage requested and a description of the pooling arrangements required by section (e)(II), if any, including the identity of the designated representatives.

(B) Objections. Any party or witness may lodge with the judge a written objection to expanded media coverage of all or a portion of a proceeding.

(C) Judicial Authorization. The judge shall rule on a request or objection within a reasonable time prior to the proceeding or promptly after the request or objection if the proceeding has begun. The ruling shall be made on the record and the reasons therefore set forth briefly.

(D) The media or any witness may not appeal, or seek review by original proceeding, the granting or denial of expanded media coverage. A party to the case may seek review of a ruling by original proceeding, if otherwise appropriate, or by post-trial appeal.

**(b) Other use of Media.**

- (1) A judge may authorize the use of electronic or photographic means for the perpetuation of a record, or for purposes of judicial administration.
- (2) A judge may authorize the broadcasting, televising, recording, or photographing of investitive, ceremonial, or naturalization proceedings.

## Request for Expanded Media Coverage

The name of media group: \_\_\_\_\_

Person making request: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Name, address of counsel (if represented): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of request: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of proceeding: Feb. 12, 2013

Time of the proceeding	Case Number	Case Caption
10:15 a.m.	12CA921	Sackel v. Phillips et al.
11 a.m.	11CA1077	People v. Ridgeway

The type of expanded media coverage requested:

Designated Representative:

\_\_\_\_ audio

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ video

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ still photography

\_\_\_\_\_

Description of the pooling arrangements required by section (5)(B), including the identity of the designated representatives:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Request for Expanded Media Coverage.** A written request for expanded media coverage must be submitted to Chris Ryan, clerk of the Court of Appeals, by fax at 720-625-5148 at least one day prior to the proceeding as outlined in Canon 3 (submitting requests earlier is appreciated to allow for response time). A fill-in-the-blank request form is attached below.

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Request for Expanded Media Coverage was mailed, faxed or hand delivered to the following persons at the locations or fax numbers indicated:

**12CA921: Michael Sackel v. Ronald Phillips; Timothy Nester; Comcast Cable Communications LLC; and Comcast Cable Communications Holdings Inc.**

**For the Appellant:**

Robert M. Liechty, Cross Lieghty Lane P.C., 7100 E. Belleview Ave., #G-11, Greenwood Village, CO 80111, tel. 303-333-4122, fax 303-333-4124

**For the Appellees:**

Darin Mackender and Ruth N. Mackey, Fisher & Phillips LLP, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3300, Denver, CO 80202, tel. 303-218-3650, fax 303-218-3651

**11CA1077: People of the State of Colorado v. Lewis Burton Ridgeway**

**For the Appellant:**

Britta Kruse, Office of the Colorado State Public Defender, 1290 Broadway, Suite 900, Denver, CO 80203, tel. 303-764-1400

**For the Appellee:**

Michael D. McMaster, Office of the Colorado Attorney General, 1300 Broadway, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Denver, CO 80203, tel. 720-508-6484.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to comply with all relevant orders and all criteria set forth in Rule 2.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_