

Oral arguments for cases scheduled in May will be held by video through Microsoft Teams. Counsel must participate remotely and not from the Supreme Court building. Counsel do not have to have the Teams App to participate, but must have email, a working internet connection, a camera, a microphone, and a video card that will allow participants to see each member of the Court, all of whom will participate from separate locations, and other counsel.

In order to participate by video, counsel will be contacted to participate in a test session with Court IT to determine if they have the necessary equipment and a sufficient internet connection. All counsel should participate in the same test session remotely to minimize the work of Supreme Court IT staff.

Not less than 11 days before argument, counsel must certify in writing that they have the necessary equipment and have completed the test session. This certification will be accomplished via the Oral Argument Receipt Acknowledgment form you will receive in the mail. If for any reason a party does not want argument by video or cannot participate by that means, they should file a written Motion and the case will be transferred to the brief-only docket pursuant to W.R.A.P 8.01(a) and (c).

If counsel participate by video, they should be sure the area from which they connect is appropriate and sufficiently quiet, and that they dress appropriately, as if they were arguing in person. Counsel may be seated during argument to facilitate use of the video but should conduct themselves otherwise as if in the Supreme Court courtroom. Counsel arguing by video should be attentive for questions from the Court, as the Court's ability to ask questions is the primary reason for not resolving all cases on the brief-only docket during the current pandemic.

The Court plans to return to in-person arguments as soon as it can do so with due regard to the safety of all concerned. If you have questions, please contact the Clerk's office by telephone or email, or consult the Judicial Branch website.