

Special Session



Kansas Supreme Court

6:30 p.m.

APRIL
23

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Lansing Middle School

220 Lion Lane
Lansing

Informal public reception follows

Supreme Court invites community to special session in Lansing

The Kansas Supreme Court will hear two cases in a special session at Lansing Middle School, 220 Lion Lane, as part of its ongoing outreach to familiarize Kansans with the court, its work, and the overall role of the Kansas judiciary.

Information about the special session, including briefs filed by attorneys in the cases to be heard, are online at www.kscourts.org/travel-docket.

The court will be in session from 6:30 p.m. to about 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 23. The justices will greet the public in an informal reception following the session.

Cases to be heard

Appeal No. 124,160: *Benchmark Property Remodeling, LLC., v. Grandmothers, Inc., CoreFirst Bank and Trust, Kansas Department of Revenue, Robert Zibell, and State of Kansas*

Shawnee County: (Petition for Review) The Kansas Department of Revenue leased a building from Grandmothers. Benchmark submitted quotes for remodeling the building; KDOR approved the quotes and, once Benchmark completed the work, KDOR paid Grandmothers the full amount. Grandmothers did not pay Benchmark the full amount, however, and Benchmark sued both. The district court granted summary judgment to KDOR and partial summary judgment to Grandmothers, holding that Benchmark had no contract with either. Benchmark moved to dismiss its remaining claims without prejudice to appeal. The Court of Appeals reversed. The panel held it had appellate jurisdiction because Benchmark—which was time-barred from reviving its dismissed claims—had no pending claims in the district court. The panel also concluded the district court erred in holding, as a matter of law, that no contract existed. Grandmothers petitions this court for review.

Issues on review are whether the Court of Appeals erred: 1) by holding it had jurisdiction; and 2) in finding that issues of material facts remain.

Appeal No. 125,318: *State of Kansas v. Zshavon Malik Dotson*

Wyandotte County: (Criminal Appeal) Dotson appeals his convictions for premeditated first-degree murder and aggravated battery. The district court sentenced him to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 25 years, which is called a hard-25 sentence.

Issues on review are whether: 1) the prosecutor misstated the law on premeditation during closing arguments; 2) there was insufficient evidence of premeditation to support a conviction for first-degree murder; 3) premeditated first-degree murder and intentional second-degree murder are identical offenses; 4) the district court erred when instructing the jury on premeditation; 5) the verdict form erroneously listed guilty before not guilty; 6) Dotson's trial counsel provided constitutionally ineffective assistance; and 7) the cumulative effect of multiple trial errors denied Dotson a fair trial.

Attending the special session

Arrive early to allow time to get through security. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. To ease your check-in, do not bring:

- food or drink.
- large bags, large purses, backpacks, computer cases, or briefcases.
- knives, pepper spray, firearms, or weapons.
- laptop computers, handheld games, personal digital assistants, or tablets. If you must carry a cellphone, turn off or silence its ringer and store it out of sight.

Quiet, please

Talking during oral argument is prohibited. If you arrive after the session starts, or you must leave before it ends, be as quiet as possible entering and existing. Also, do not talk outside the doors to the venue.

Informal reception

After the session concludes, the justices will greet the public in an informal reception.

Live video stream

The special session will be livestreamed online at www.YouTube.com/KansasSupremeCourt.

Supreme Court outreach

The Supreme Court has conducted special sessions outside its Topeka courtroom since 2011, when it marked the state's 150th anniversary by convening in the historic Supreme Court courtroom in the Kansas Statehouse.

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