

Special Session



Kansas Supreme Court

9:30 a.m.
Introduction
to Courts

10:00 a.m.
Oral argument

APRIL
29

LEARN MORE ONLINE



LIFE Center

Logan Intergenerational
Family Education Center

601 W. North St.
Logan

Public reception afterward

Supreme Court invites community to special session in Logan

The Kansas Supreme Court will hear a case in a special session at Logan Intergenerational Family Education Center at 601 W. North Street, as part of its ongoing outreach to familiarize Kansans with the court, its work, and the overall role of the Kansas judiciary.

Before oral argument, Chief Justice Marla Luckert will give a brief educational presentation on the Kansas court system. The presentation is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

From 10 a.m. to about 10:45 a.m., the court will be in session to hear oral argument in a case yet to be announced.

Students from area high schools are invited to attend the special session in person, as are members of communities in the region.

Information about the special session, including a description of the case to be heard, the questions before the court, and briefs filed by attorneys, will be online at kscourts.gov/travel-docket.

Case to be heard

Appeal No. 127,534: *State of Kansas vs. Stanton S. Holt*

Counsel for Appellant: Kristen Patty

Counsel for Appellee: Andrew Lohmann, assistant solicitor general, Kansas Attorney General's Office

Geary County: (Criminal appeal) Holt is serving two consecutive life sentences plus 123 to 355 years in prison. A jury convicted Holt in 1994 in Geary County District Court of two counts of first-degree murder, as well as multiple counts of aggravated burglary and other charges related to a series of burglaries in 1993. In October 2020, Holt filed a motion for postconviction DNA testing of trial evidence. The district court initially ordered the evidence be sent to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation lab for testing. However, the district court later rescinded the testing order and denied Holt's motion after hearing testimony from a KBI supervisor at an evidentiary hearing. The KBI supervisor testified that the evidence the lab received wasn't appropriately preserved and lacked documentation. The district court concluded that because of how the evidence had been packaged and stored since the trial, DNA testing of the evidence would not produce results accurate to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty. Holt appeals, claiming the district court erred in denying his motion. Holt asserts Kansas law allows him to seek DNA testing and that whether the results of the testing would be accurate to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty is not a factor under

the law. The State argues the district court correctly denied Holt's motion for postconviction DNA testing because the evidence had undergone DNA testing at the time of trial. It further argues that even if new DNA testing is done, the condition of the evidence would result in the DNA testing being meaningless or inconclusive.

Attending the special session

Arrive early to allow time to get through security. Doors open at 8:15 a.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 exiting. 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 YouTube.com/KansasSupremeCourt.

Supreme Court outreach

In 2011, the Supreme Court began conducting special sessions outside its Topeka courtroom. That year, it marked the state's 150th anniversary by convening in the historic Supreme Court courtroom in the Kansas Statehouse. The court returned to the Statehouse for another special session in January 2025.

Logan will be the 25th community the court will visit since it began the outreach program 14 years ago.

The court has conducted special sessions in Colby, Concordia, Dodge City, El Dorado, Emporia, Garden City, Great Bend, Greensburg, Hays, Hiawatha, Hutchinson, Kansas City, Lawrence, Lansing, Louisburg, Manhattan, Overland Park, Parsons, Pittsburg, Salina, Topeka, Wichita, and Winfield.