



District of Columbia Court of Appeals In-Person Oral Arguments Information Sheet

In September 2022, the court resumed holding oral arguments **in person**. At any time, however, the court may elect to conduct an oral argument in a hybrid format or entirely remotely using the Zoom Government platform. In accordance with the court's August 4, 2022, order, unless otherwise prohibited and regardless of location, all oral arguments will continue to be livestreamed on the DC Court of Appeals YouTube channel to provide public access. A link to any upcoming livestreamed oral argument will be available on the court's website at:

<https://www.dccourts.gov/court-of-appeals/oral-arguments>

Parties may request to appear remotely; for details, please see the court's website at:

https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/COA-efiling-cases-online-PDFs/Hybrid_Oral_Argument_Information_Sheet.pdf

Oral arguments are held in the main courtroom on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse, except that arguments before the entire court sitting *en banc* are held in the Ceremonial Courtroom, which is located on the lower level.

Disinfecting wipes will be available at the attorney's tables. Details on health and safety procedures are available at:

<https://www.dccourts.gov/stepstokeepyousafe>

Masking protocols: The District of Columbia Court of Appeals intends to conduct in-person and hybrid oral arguments pursuant to the protocols set forth below.

- Judges may elect to remove their masks in order to aid the participants in hearing and understanding questions presented and to understand one another.
- Arguing counsel or parties without attorneys who would like to speak at the podium without wearing a mask must take a COVID-19 test within 24-hours prior to oral argument, test negative for COVID-19, and self-certify that fact to the Clerk's Office via email at efilehelp@dcapeals.gov. A COVID-19 rapid test is acceptable.
- Arguing counsel or parties without attorneys who have knowingly been exposed to an individual or individuals that tested positive for COVID-19 and would like to speak without wearing a mask must take a COVID-19 test the morning of oral argument, test negative for COVID-19, and self-certify that fact to the Clerk's Office via email at efilehelp@dcapeals.gov. A COVID-19 rapid test is acceptable.
- A judge or arguing counsel or party without an attorney may choose to wear a mask for any reason.

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- Any judge, arguing counsel, or party without an attorney who tests positive for COVID-19 shall not enter the Courthouse or attend oral argument and must immediately notify the Clerk's Office via email at efilehelp@dcappeals.gov. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, is asymptomatic or has only minor symptoms, and is able to proceed with oral argument shall file a motion to appear remotely.
- Other than arguing counsel, parties without attorneys, and judges hearing argument, everyone in the courtroom must wear a mask that covers the person's mouth and nose (details online). If a person does not have a mask, one will be provided for them. Any person intending to observe oral argument who tests positive for COVID-19 or is experiencing COVID-like symptoms shall not attend oral argument.