

# Online Resources for Appellate Oral Argument

By Randy E. Davidson

**W**ith the advent of streaming audio and video, the busy practitioner now has significant help when preparing for oral argument by getting to know his or her audience without having to travel to the courthouse. This article surveys some of the free resources available online.

## United States Supreme Court

The Supreme Court clerk's office has a guide for counsel that includes helpful tips at [http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/guideforcounsel.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/guideforcounsel.pdf). Since the justices do not use nameplates, a seating chart is available at <http://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/visitorsguidetooralargument.aspx>. In addition, the clerk's office now posts argument transcripts at [http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_transcripts.aspx](http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts.aspx) the same day a case is heard. Audio recordings are posted at the end of each week during the argument term and can be found at [http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_audio.aspx](http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_audio.aspx). The Oyez Project at the Chicago–Kent College of Law also maintains a comprehensive archive at <http://www.oyez.org/>.

## Michigan Supreme Court

The State Bar of Michigan maintains an archive of Michigan Supreme Court oral arguments and public administrative hearings, available at <http://www.michbar.org/courts/virtualcourt.cfm>.

## United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

The Sixth Circuit's website provides attorney instructions at [http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/internet/court\\_calendars/](http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/internet/court_calendars/)

[pdf/oral\\_arg.pdf](http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/internet/court_calendars/documents/FAQ.pdf). Frequently asked questions are answered at [http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/internet/court\\_calendars/documents/FAQ.pdf](http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/internet/court_calendars/documents/FAQ.pdf).

## Other Federal Courts of Appeals

Archives of argument audio for the federal courts are available online:

- Federal Circuit—<http://www.cafc.uscourts.gov/oral-argument-recordings/search/audio.html>
- Third Circuit—<http://www.ca3.uscourts.gov/oralargument/OralArg.htm>
- Fourth Circuit—<http://www.ca4.uscourts.gov/OAarchive/OAList.asp>
- Fifth Circuit—<http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/OralArgumentRecordings.aspx>
- Seventh Circuit—<http://www.ca7.uscourts.gov/fdocs/docs.fwx?dname=arg>
- Eighth Circuit—<http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/oralargs/oaFrame.html>
- Ninth Circuit—[http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/media/index\\_video.php](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/media/index_video.php)

## Other State Courts

For practitioners traveling to other courts or interested in more examples, states with live or archived arguments include:

- Alaska—<http://www.360north.org/2012/08/31/alaska-supreme-court-2/>

- Arizona—<http://www.azcourts.gov/AZSupremeCourt/LiveArchivedVideo.aspx>
- Arkansas—[https://courts.arkansas.gov/oral\\_arguments/](https://courts.arkansas.gov/oral_arguments/)
- Colorado—[http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Supreme\\_Court/Oral\\_Arguments/Index.cfm](http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Supreme_Court/Oral_Arguments/Index.cfm) (Supreme Court) and [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) (Court of Appeals)
- Delaware—<http://courts.delaware.gov/supreme/audioargs.stm>
- Florida—<http://www.wfsu.org/gavel2gavel/index.php>
- Hawaii—[http://www.courts.state.hi.us/courts/oral\\_arguments/recordings\\_archive.html](http://www.courts.state.hi.us/courts/oral_arguments/recordings_archive.html)
- Idaho—<http://www.isc.idaho.gov/appeals-court/isc-calendar>
- Illinois—[http://www.state.il.us/court/Media/On\\_Demand.asp](http://www.state.il.us/court/Media/On_Demand.asp) (Supreme Court) and <http://www.state.il.us/court/Media/Appellate/default.asp> (Appellate Court)
- Indiana—<http://mycourts.in.gov/arguments/>
- Iowa—[http://www.iowacourts.gov/Supreme\\_Court/Oral\\_Argument\\_Video/](http://www.iowacourts.gov/Supreme_Court/Oral_Argument_Video/)
- Kansas—<http://www.kscourts.org/kansas-courts/supreme-court/arguments.asp>

The State Bar of Michigan maintains an archive of Michigan Supreme Court oral arguments and public administrative hearings.

With the proliferation of free online resources, the busy practitioner can discover a lot about the argument styles of court members before appearing in court without having to leave the office.

- Kentucky—<http://courts.ky.gov/courts/supreme/Pages/OralArguments.aspx>
- Maine—[http://www.courts.state.me.us/maine\\_courts/supreme/stream.shtml](http://www.courts.state.me.us/maine_courts/supreme/stream.shtml)
- Massachusetts—<http://www2.suffolk.edu/sjc/>
- Minnesota—<http://www.tpt.org/courts/>
- Mississippi—[http://courts.ms.gov/appellate\\_courts/sc/scoralarguments.html](http://courts.ms.gov/appellate_courts/sc/scoralarguments.html) (Supreme Court) and [http://courts.ms.gov/appellate\\_courts/coa/coaralarguments.html](http://courts.ms.gov/appellate_courts/coa/coaralarguments.html) (Court of Appeals)
- Nebraska—<http://supremecourt.ne.gov/sc/archive> (Supreme Court) and <http://supremecourt.ne.gov/coa/archive> (Court of Appeals)
- New Hampshire—<http://www.courts.nh.gov/cstream/index.asp>
- New Jersey—<http://njlegallib.rutgers.edu/supct/>
- New York—<http://www.nycourts.gov/ctapps/OA-Archives.htm>
- North Dakota—<http://www.ndcourts.gov/court/webcasts.htm>
- Ohio—<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/videostream/default.asp>
- Oregon—<http://oregoncourts.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/default.aspx>
- Texas—<http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/TSCSearch.asp>
- Utah—<http://www.utcourts.gov/courts/sup/streams/>
- Vermont—<http://www.vermontjudiciary.org/LC/audioarguments.aspx>
- West Virginia—<http://www.courts.wv.gov/supreme-court/webcast.html>
- Wisconsin—<http://www.wicourts.gov/opinions/soralarguments.htm>
- Wyoming—<http://www.courts.state.wy.us/ViewPage.aspx?PageURL=listen/broadcast.html>

## Law Schools

The Georgetown University Law Center's library has a comprehensive web page at

[http://www.law.georgetown.edu/library/research/guides/briefs\\_arguments.cfm#brief-writing-and-oral-advocacy-guides](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/library/research/guides/briefs_arguments.cfm#brief-writing-and-oral-advocacy-guides). The Yale Law School also has a resource guide at <http://library.law.yale.edu/research/court-records-briefs-and-oral-arguments>.

## Conclusion

With the proliferation of free online resources, the busy practitioner can discover a lot about the argument styles of court members before appearing in court without having to leave the office, helping to ensure that counsel will be effective. ■



*Randy E. Davidson received his JD cum laude from Wayne State University Law School in 1979. He was admitted to the Bar in 1979 and has served as an assistant defender at the State Appellate Defender Office since 1992. He is a member and past chair of the State Bar of Michigan Committee on Libraries, Legal Research, and Legal Publications and a member of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan.*