

**Court observation assignment!**

- Gen Ed Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):
  - *Knowledge* → show curiosity and desire to learn
  - *Skills* → derive meaning from experience, gather information from observation
  - *Integration* → understand and navigate systems
  - *Values, Ethics and Relationships* → understand organizations and histories of government
- Post due on Openlab Wed.Dec. 9, 2020, 10am (category: "Court observation!")—5% of course grade

**Task:** Each student shall watch a recording of an oral argument that took place before the New York Court of Appeals. Recordings are available at <http://www.courts.state.ny.us/ctapps/OA-Archives.htm>. Each one is about twenty minutes long. They are organized by year and month: When you click on a particular month, you will see a list of cases argued that month. To watch a particular argument, click "webcast" to the right of it. For a preview of what the argument was about, click "transcript," and you should find in the first few pages an indication of what the argument was about. You may choose a civil or criminal case: cases titled "People v. ..." generally are criminal cases; others are civil.

Below are some arguments that might interest you, though you may choose any argument you would like:

- *Matter of Marian T. (Lauren R.)*: considering the "adoption of an adult woman who is not capable of providing consent to the adoption" due to her "profound intellectual disability" (October 2020)
- *People v Lance Williams*: criminal matter in which defendant claimed his possession of a gun was "temporary and lawful" because he held it for a short time and he believed he was in imminent danger (November 2020)
- *Matter of the Hon. Paul H. Senzer*: addressed whether to remove a judge (who was also a practicing attorney) accused of sending vulgar and sexist emails to lawyers and clients (June 2020)

**Response:** After watching your argument, please write a post on OpenLab that consists of at least two paragraphs:

- At least one paragraph describing the argument you observed, including the name of the case and the month and year it was argued; a link to the recording, if possible; what the case was about (as best as you could understand it), the question the Court considered, each party's arguments, and anything else you consider noteworthy.
- At least one more paragraph describing your personal response to what you observed, and reasons for your responses. For example, what did you find surprising, or interesting? What did you think about what the judges and lawyers did, and how they conducted themselves? Which arguments did you find more persuasive, and why? Was there anything you did not understand? Was there anything else you found noteworthy for any reason?

Please post your response by **10am Wednesday, Dec. 9**, with "Court observation!" as the category. Before posting, please proofread for correct grammar, spelling, etc. Happy observing! 😊