

# FEBRUARY 2026

# ORAL ARGUMENT CALENDAR

# Motion Panel

Judge Glenn E. Acree, Presiding Judge

Judge J. Christopher McNeill and  
Judge Kelly Mark Easton,  
Associate Judges

## Kentucky Court of Appeals

### Oral Argument Calendar

**Friday, February 06, 2026**

Location: SALMON P. CHASE COLLEGE OF LAW, 126 NUNN HALL, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KY

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**11:00AM (EST) COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY v. SUSAN HOOPER, 2024-CA-1431  
AND**

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY v. EDGAR GRIBBINS, 2025-CA-0249**

**[2024-CA-1431, 2025-CA-0249](#)**

**Presiding Judge: HON. J. CHRISTOPHER McNEILL**

**Associate Judges: HON. JACQUELINE M. CALDWELL and HON. WILLIAM P. MOYNAHAN**

This is a criminal case involving the suppression of evidence pursuant to the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and Section 10 of the Kentucky Constitution. In 2023, the Greater Hardin County Narcotics Task Force obtained a search warrant for Edgar Gribbins' residence. Gribbins and his co-defendant, Susan Hooper, were living there together. The affidavit in support of the warrant included information from sources that Gribbins was selling methamphetamine from his residence. During the search, law enforcement found suspected methamphetamine, hydrocodone pills in a bottle not prescribed to either co-defendant, and drug paraphernalia. Gribbins was indicted on two counts of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, second-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Hooper was indicted on two counts of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, second-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Both co-defendants filed motions to suppress the evidence obtained from the residence on the bases that the search warrant was invalid due to unreliable information. The Washington County Circuit Court granted both motions to suppress. The Commonwealth appeals from those orders to the Kentucky Court of Appeals as a matter of right. On appeal, the Commonwealth argues that the trial court erred in granting the motions to suppress evidence on the basis that, under the totality of the circumstances, there was probable cause to issue the search warrant. The Commonwealth alleges that these cases present a unified issue of first impression. The Court of Appeals ordered oral arguments to be held at the Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law on February 6, 2026.

**WASHINGTON County, HON. KAEELIN G. REED**

Attorney for Appellant: Courtney J. Hightower

Attorneys for Appellee: Jude Anthony Hagan and Michael William Niemietz

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**Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

Location: Magoffin County Courthouse, Family Courtroom, 100 E. Maple Street,  
Salyersville, KY

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**11:00AM (EST) RICKY NELSON HOWARD, A/K/A RICK HOWARD ET AL. v. FRANK HOWARD T.V. CABLE, INC., ET AL.**

**[2025-CA-0459](#)**

**Presiding Judge: HON. AUDRA J. ECKERLE**

**Associate Judges: HON. GLENN E. ACREE and HON. ANNETTE C. KAREM**

This appeal arises from a family dispute regarding ownership of real property. In 2007, appellant's mother allegedly signed a deed of conveyance transferring ownership to appellant, one of her nine children, without informing the others. Appellant did not record the deed until six years later, in early 2013. The mother died testate later that same year, devising all property to her children equally. The appellee siblings subsequently challenged the validity of the deed before a Magoffin County jury, arguing that the deed was forged, and the subject property must be divided equally pursuant to their mother's will. Ultimately, the jury found the deed invalid. On appeal, appellant asserts that his siblings lacked standing to challenge the deed, and their claims are time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations. Appellant also alleges error in the Trial Court's refusal to estop the siblings' claims based upon witness testimony that the mother's signature on her will was forged.

**MAGOFFIN County, HON. KIM C. CHILDERS**

Attorney for Appellants: Eldred E. Adams, Jr.

Attorneys for Appellees: James Richard Tanner Hesterberg, Ryan Douglas Mosley, and Larry Dean Brown

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