



The Supreme Court Goes Live

Here's what legal experts (in alphabetical order) were saying before the first live argument kicked off on Monday, May 4:

Lisa Blatt, Williams and Connolly, virtual litigator: "What could I say? 'Of course. Happy to. Honored to.' [be the first to argue remotely]." (April 29, 2020, [Washington Post](#))

Bruce Collins, C-SPAN general counsel: "COVID-19 was able to do in two months what C-SPAN has been trying to get the court to do for 35 years." (April 30, 2020, [USA Today](#))

Clare Cushman, Supreme Court Historical Society: The decision remains a "giant leap forward" for a court that has shunned technology in favor of tradition. (April 22, 2020, [AP](#))

Judge Stephen Dillard, Georgia Court of Appeals: "This is a great first step, and I'm excited about it, but I hope they will go further in years to come and allow live video streaming." (April 22, 2020, [AP](#))

Neal Katyal, former Acting U.S. Solicitor General: "There should be immediate access." "This is an extraordinary thing, and so they've done something here, I think it's a great thing that they've done." "They're going to try this out, I think it was a wise decision." (April 17, 2020, [Bloomberg Law](#))

Roman Martinez, Latham and Watkins LLP, virtual litigator: "It will place a premium on listening especially carefully and trying to pick up as much as possible from the questions." "It will be nice to have materials in front of me if I need them, but in a case like this the questions will be coming my way like fastballs. There's no time to look anything up." (April 16, 2020, [CNBC](#))

Melissa Murray, NYU Law: "You can't walk back these kinds of things." Live audio gives Americans the ability to monitor the third branch of government at work, and "I don't know why you wouldn't want that." (April 22, 2020, [AP](#))

Barbara Perry, University of Virginia's Miller Center: "This is good for public education. It's good for the court coming into the 21st century." (April 13, 2020, [CNN](#))

Noah Purcell, Washington State Solicitor General: on live Ninth Circuit case he argued in three years ago: "It was remarkable to me how many people I heard from." (April 30, 2020, [USA Today](#))

Eric Rassbach, Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, virtual litigator: "I get to be a footnote in history!" (April 29, 2020, [Washington Post](#))

Jay Sekulow, attorney for President Trump, virtual litigator: Going to the Supreme Court is "awe inspiring," but "I'm awe inspired by this as well. Here we are in the middle of a serious health crisis in this country, a pandemic, and our institutions are able to adapt. So we adapt." (April 16, 2020, [CNBC](#))