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NEWS RELEASE

April 1, 2008

Contact: Ed Eck, UM law school dean, 406-243-4311; Bill DeCicco, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, clerk of court, 202-761-1448.

ARMED FORCES COURT HEARING COMING TO UM

MISSOULA -

A hearing of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces will be held Tuesday, April 8, at The University of Montana.

The case -- United States v. SFC Sean P. Bright, U.S. Army -- is scheduled for a noon hearing in the School of Law Castles Center, located in the lower level of the Jameson Law Library. The event is free and open to the public, and a reception will follow in the Pope Room.

Sean Bright, a U.S. Army sergeant first class, was convicted by a general court-martial of rape and other offenses involving a private assigned to his platoon. The conviction was affirmed by the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals. Bright then appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. The question before the court is whether the evidence of rape was legally sufficient to support the conviction.

The case will be presided over by Chief Judge Andrew Effron and judges James Baker, Charles Erdmann, Scott Stucky and Margaret Ryan. Erdmann is a UM law school graduate.

The hearing comes to UM as part of Project Outreach, which was developed by the court as part of a public awareness program to demonstrate the operation of a federal court of appeals and the military criminal justice system.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: The rules of the court prohibit unauthorized recording and photographing of court sessions. The court has authorized the law school to make an audio recording of the oral argument on April 8 for the court's use and a video recording for the exclusive use of the law school for educational purposes. Following the oral argument, the court will remain in place for a question-and-answer session. The judges have asked that no photographs be taken during this session. Following the question-and-answer session, the judges will be available for photographs.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Judge Erdmann has been designated by the court for any interviews the media would like to conduct. Contact Clerk of Court Bill DeCicco at 202-761-1448 to set up interviews.

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