

Justice Garza to visit Tech School of Law

By Katherine Amerson/
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With the strike of the gavel, court will be in session Friday — well, kind of.

5th Circuit Court of Appeals Justice Emilio Garza will be speaking at 1:30 p.m. in the Texas Tech School of Law moot courtroom.

Sonya Jones, Tech chapter president of the Federalist Society, said students could expect to get some insight into how judges think, as well as insight into Garza's personal foundations.



"I bet it's going to deal with how political ideologies have been formed over history," the second year law student said. "He won't talk about his opinions — he can't. He will give insight into why he votes the way he does."

Jobe Rodgers, editor in chief of the law review, said he is guessing Garza will talk a lot about the establishment clause.

"I'll introduce him, and he'll give about a one-hour lecture," he said. "The title indicates it will be a historical account of our forefathers and the original intent of the constitution. It's a great opportunity to see a

very likely Supreme Court justice and hear a message from a very intelligent and genuinely good individual."

He said if Garza were appointed to the Supreme Court, he would be the first Hispanic appointed.

"Though he is Hispanic and could be the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice, that's not the reason he would be appointed. He would be appointed because of who he is," Rodgers said. "He's a pretty big name guy."

Jones said there will be three students participating in his speech, and his speech probably will not be controversial, since general elections are approaching.

"I don't think he'll address any issues that are of political importance," she said. "It's not going to be that

juicy. We don't get controversial until October."

Rodgers agreed. "He'll be the guy you may be reading about in history books later," Rodgers said.

Jorge Ramirez, Tech professor of law, said he is happy to have Garza speaking at the law school.

President Reagan appointed Garza to the federal court in 1998, he said. President Bush elevated him to the Court of Appeals in 1991.

He said Garza's experience is the most valuable asset he brings to the

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— **JOBE RODGERS**
Editor in Chief of
the Law Review

practiced law as a lawyer for 11 years," he said. "One of the things he brings to the job is his depth of experience."

Garza will be speaking on conscience, he said, and will be highlighting points in western spiritual and intellectual history.

"He's definitely perceived, I think, as a judge that would end up on the conservative end of the Supreme Court,"

Ramirez said. "Both presidential candidates would love to appoint the first

Hispanic to the court."

The 5th Circuit is comprised of Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, and Ramirez said there are 17 seats on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, although two of the seats are vacant.

"Judge Garza is a highly qualified jurist," he said.

Jones said he believes Garza is controversial because he does not vote the way many of his race want him to.

"We bring in speakers on lots of different topics," she said, "groups of conservatives and libertarians."

Garza will speak at 1:30 p.m. Jones encourages all students and faculty to come and hear Garza speak.

"We want the room to be full," she said.