



United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
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**Court Launches Reflections from the Court at the Heart of America:  
Judicial Oral History Project with an Interview with Judge Aspen**

Chicago, Ill. - On February 27, 2019, in celebration of its Bicentennial Year, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois kicked off "Reflections from the Court at the Heart of America: Judicial Oral History Project" with an interview with Judge Marvin E. Aspen: "A Judge Who Shaped the Court, the City, & the Nation."

"As we approach our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, our Court is so thrilled to launch this incredible series of judicial interviews. There's no better story to begin with than Judge Marvin Aspen's, who has served on this court with excellence for forty years and whose body of work has left a lasting impact on our district and nation," said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo.

Judge Aspen shared stories about his family upbringing, as well as his fascinating career before joining the federal bench, including what it was like to work for Mayor Richard J. Daley and to serve on the Cook County Circuit Court. He offered insights into historic cases over which he presided including the Gautreaux consent decree, governing Chicago's public housing, and the El Rukn gang cases. He reflected on cases that drew nationwide attention, including when the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, testified in Judge Aspen's courtroom to defend against an accusation of copyright infringement. Judge Aspen shared insights into how he helped create the Court's Trial Bar Program, spread the ethos of civility as Chair of the Seventh Circuit's Committee on Civility, and ushered in a new era of technology and innovation in the Court as the Chief Judge. The interview was moderated by three of his former law clerks, whom he now counts as colleagues: Judges Edmond E. Chang, Jeffrey T. Gilbert, and Sidney I. Schenkier.

March 3, 2019, marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of federal courts in Illinois. Throughout the Bicentennial Year of the Northern District of Illinois, the Court will host this Judicial Oral History Project to include a series of interview history-makers who have left an indelible mark on the legal system. Information on upcoming interviews will be posted on the court's [website](#).



Magistrate Judge Schenkier, Judge Aspen, Magistrate Judge Gilbert, Judge Chang



Chief Judge Castillo welcomes attendees.

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