

## Court Information Release



United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

**Release Date:**  
October 5, 2022

**Contact:** Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer  
United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
219 S. Dearborn St., #2514A  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-435-5693

### **Unidos for a Stronger Judiciary: District Court to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month**

Chicago, Ill. - In celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois will be livestreaming [“Unidos for a Stronger Judiciary: Building a Foundation of Inclusivity for the Hispanic/Latinx Pipeline to the Bench and Bar.”](#) This program is produced by the ABA Judicial Division’s Standing Committee on Diversity in the Judiciary.

“On behalf of the Court’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, we invite you to learn from this esteemed panel of Hispanic jurists,” said U.S. Magistrate Judge Gabriel A. Fuentes and Chairperson of the Court’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Panelists will share their paths to the judiciary and their perspectives on what can be done to broaden the Hispanic/Latinx community’s representation in the ranks of judges, lawyers, and legal professionals.

Panelists include:

- Hon. Albert Diaz, U.S. Court of Appeals, 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit
- Hon. Jenny Rivera, New York State Court of Appeals
- Attorney Sonia Miller Van-Oort, Sapientia Law Group
- Dr. Jill Cruz (moderator), JLC Consulting

Individuals interested in attending this webinar are invited to participate in one of two ways:

1. [Register for this free event](#) and join the webinar remotely at **11 a.m. (CST) on October 11, 2022**

OR

2. Watch a livestream of the webinar from Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Courtroom 1441. U.S. District Judge Franklin U. Valderrama, Northern District of Illinois, will introduce the program

and offer brief remarks beginning at **10:50 a.m. CST on October 11, 2022**. Individuals who wish to join the in-person webinar watch at the Courthouse must be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Court's Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Committee is devoted to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion at the Court, including by recognizing and celebrating the contribution of all groups of any ethnic composition, and by observing events like National Hispanic Heritage Month in service of that goal.

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

##