

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
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Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2548
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

Chief Judge Castillo and Judge Ellis reflect upon Court's re-entry program with Loyola students, faculty

CHICAGO, Ill. – On July 17, 2018, Chief Judge Ruben Castillo and Judge Sara L. Ellis spoke with Loyola University Chicago School of Law students and faculty about the Court's James B. Moran Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Re-entry Program.

The James B. Moran Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program, named after the late U.S. District Judge James B. Moran, is designed to help former inmates reintegrate into the community and live law-abiding lives after they are released from prison. The program is supported by a dedicated team comprised of district judges, magistrate judges, probation officers, attorneys from the Federal Defender Program, assistant U.S. attorneys, and drug treatment specialists who are there to assist participants with the social, employment, and other challenges that confront individuals returning to the community from prison.

Bi-monthly court sessions address participants' progress and performance on federal supervision. Each participant is given the opportunity to speak about current challenges, to share experiences and to receive feedback from other participants and from program team members. In addition to the participants' original federal supervision requirements, all participants are expected to follow through with individualized goals set by the court team and to comply with the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program requirements. Participants receive rewards, incentives, and sanctions, when necessary, to promote positive efforts and encourage a drug-free lifestyle. Individuals who successfully complete the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program are rewarded with a reduction of federal supervision.

The Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program is now in its seventh year. Chief Judge Rubén Castillo, District Judge Sara L. Ellis, Magistrate Judge Susan E. Cox, and Magistrate Judge Sidney I. Schenkier all serve on the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Team.

Both Chief Judge Castillo and Judge Ellis are Loyola Alumni. Chief Judge Castillo earned his Bachelor of Arts from Loyola University Chicago. Judge Ellis earned her law degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

The students and faculty were part of Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Center for Experiential Learning, which collaborates with campus, community, and employer partners to promote, develop, and implement academic experiential learning through teaching, research, and service.

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Above: Chief Judge Rubén Castillo



Above: Judge Sara L. Ellis and Latif Jones, 2017 Second C.H.A.N.C.E. graduate, in front of one of Mr. Jones' paintings