



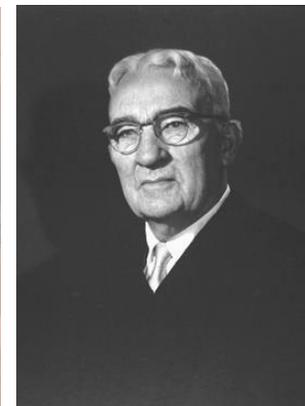
United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

Court Hosts Bicentennial History Lecture on Immigration Law and the Bold Decisions of Judges from the Northern District of Illinois, 1907-1940

In honor of the 200th anniversary of federal courts in Illinois, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Northern District of Illinois Court Historical Association hosted, *"It Would Be Inhumane and Cruel:" A Brief History of Immigration Law and the Bold Decisions of Judges from the Northern District of Illinois, 1907-1940*, a talk by Professor Felice Batlan.

Professor Batlan's remarks focused on the central and ongoing tenets and contradictions in U.S. history -- our simultaneous embrace of immigrants and the immigrant dream while demanding that Congress enact harsh restrictive immigration laws. With a focus on the period of 1907 to 1940, she highlighted her research, which explored how anti-immigration sentiment was reaching a zenith, which included deportation raids and the cancellation of naturalization certificates. Some judges, particularly Judge Philip Leo Sullivan, from the Northern District of Illinois made bold decisions in habeas corpus proceedings brought by immigrants, by using humanitarian concerns to prevent deportation in an era before modern asylum laws.

Felice Batlan is a Professor of Law at IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law. She is the author of *Women and Justice to the Poor: A History of Legal Aid, 1863-1945* (Cambridge, 2015) which won the 2016 Willard Hurst Prize.



Left to Right: District Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, Professor Felice Batlan, photograph of Judge Philip Leo Sullivan.