

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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United States District Court in Illinois Celebrates 190th Anniversary on March 3, 2009

CHICAGO – March 3, 2009 marks the 190th anniversary of the United States District Court in Illinois. An anniversary celebration will begin at 3:00 p.m. with a program in the James Benton Parsons Ceremonial Courtroom, Room 2525 of the Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse. The members of the bar of the Northern District of Illinois are invited and are requested to reply via e-mail at ilnd_190th_Anniversary@ilnd.uscourts.gov if attending.

Historian and author Richard Cahan, who wrote *A Court That Shaped America: Chicago's Federal District Court from Abe Lincoln to Abbie Hoffman*, will give a commentary on the highlights of the federal court's 190 years of service in Illinois. Mr. Cahan's remarks will be followed by a panel discussion of Northern District judges, both present and past, moderated by Circuit Judge William J. Bauer on "The Future of the Federal Courts."

The event also includes the grand opening of an exhibit entitled: "The 190th Anniversary of the United States District Court in Illinois: A Celebration of the Federal Judiciary's Contribution to Illinois and the Nation," on the second floor of the Dirksen United States Courthouse, where a reception for the members of the Court's bar will be held following the program.

As a part of the exhibit, court artifacts, photographs and sketches will be displayed demonstrating the contributions and impact of the federal court system, and the role it plays in our tripartite system of government. Tracing the court's development in Illinois from its establishment in 1819 to 2009, the exhibit will follow the court's growth and various physical locations and will examine the notable cases that have come before it in its 190 years. Materials for the display have been culled from the records and photographs of the Northern District of Illinois Court Historical Association, The Chicago History Museum, The National Archives & Records Administration-Great Lakes Region and sketches by courtroom artists of famous trials in the court.

The exhibit will be on display at the Dirksen United States Courthouse during business hours from March 4 to May 1, 2009, and the public is invited to view the exhibit.