



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

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**District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Welcomes High Schoolers Participating in
Equal Justice Under Law Program**

Chicago, Ill. - On Friday, December 9, 2016, the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted students from eleven area high schools participating in the Equal Justice Under Law program.

Chief Judge Rubén Castillo welcomed the students and their teachers. "Our court is your court. We are especially excited to host young people, like you, at the courthouse and are inspired by your commitment to civic engagement," said Chief Judge Castillo.

In the morning, students heard mock oral arguments from experienced attorneys and then in panels of "justices," students reviewed facts and issues, explained their views to each other, offered their arguments and made a decision on the case. Students, in a later session, met in deliberation groups as "legislators" to discuss a proposed public policy. In the afternoon, students presented arguments on the proposed policy in a moderated town hall forum and then had the opportunity to vote for or against the policy.

Equal Justice Under Law is an annual program for Illinois high school students designed to enhance their understanding of a public policy question related to a recent constitutional issue.

Equal Justice Under Law is a program of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC) aims to strengthen American democracy by providing elementary and secondary students with hands-on learning about the Constitution to prepare them for informed civic engagement. Chief Judge Castillo serves on the CRFC Board of Directors.

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Equal Justice Under Law

Friday, December 9, 2016

Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, James Benton Parsons Memorial Courtroom



Above: Chief Judge Castillo welcomes students to the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

