

## Court Information Release



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

**Release Date:**  
October 17, 2015

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the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **District Court Hosted Inaugural “State of Latinos in the Law Symposium”**

Chicago, Ill. - On October 12, 2018, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted the inaugural “State of Latinos in the Law Symposium.” Academic, legal, and public policy experts addressed the root cause of challenges Latinx face in the legal profession, their educational journey, and their career cycles and explored strategies and recommendations to empower stakeholders to effectively address and resolve those underlying conditions.

“With participation from three of our nation’s eight Hispanic chief federal judges and more than 350 attorneys and law students from throughout our district, the Symposium was a historic and vibrant dialogue about the challenges Latinx lawyers face and how we can effectively create positive change within our communities, educational institutions, and profession. Our Court is proud to take the lead in this important conversation,” said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo.

Under the leadership of Chief Judge Rubén Castillo, the symposium was sponsored by the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois (HLAI), Hispanic National Bar Association Region IX (HNBA), Illinois Latino Judges Association (ILJA), and Puerto Rican Bar Association of Illinois (PRBA).

Symposium speakers and panelists included Honorable Rubén Castillo, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; Honorable Gustavo A. Gelpi, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico; Honorable Dora L. Irizarry, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York; Honorable Maria Valdez, Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; Honorable Jesse G. Reyes, Presiding Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fifth Division;

Honorable David R. Navarro, Circuit Judge, Pretrial Division, Circuit Court of Cook County; Honorable Ramon Ocasio, III, Municipal Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, Fourth Municipal District; general counsels and firm partners, academics; law school administrators and advisors; high school teachers and administrators; recruiters and hiring directors; and non-profit leaders.

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Photographs by Zuno Photography



Above: Honorable Gustavo A. Gelpi, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico; Honorable Maria Valdez, Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; Honorable Rubén Castillo, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; Honorable Dora L. Irizarry, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York; Honorable Jesse G. Reyes, Presiding Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fifth Division

