


**The United States District Court
for the Northern District of Illinois
Presents**

**LIFT
EVERY
VOICE**
**CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY**

**U.S. District Court
James B. Parsons
Ceremonial Courtroom
219 S. Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604**

 **February 26, 2025**

 **3:00 - 4:30 PM CDT**

**THE EVENT WILL INCLUDE MUSICAL
SELECTIONS, BLACK HISTORY
MONTH TRIVIA, AND A PANEL
DISCUSSION.**

**A BRIEF RECEPTION WITH DESSERTS
AND BEVERAGES WILL FOLLOW.**



Speaker

**Hon. David H.
Coar (Ret.)**

JAMS Mediation,
Arbitration and ADR
Services



Speaker

**Hon. Franklin
U. Valderrama**

U.S. District Court for
the Northern District
of Illinois



Speaker

**Hon. Jeannice
W. Appenteng**

U.S. District Court for
the Northern District
of Illinois



Moderator

Dan Cotter

Dickinson Wright and
CBA President (2014-
2015)



The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, in partnership with the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., the Cook County Bar Association, and the Black Men Lawyers' Association, will host a special program titled "Lift Every Voice" in the James B. Parsons Ceremonial Courtroom on February 26, 2025, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM.

In recognition of Black History Month, this event will celebrate diversity on the federal bench and acknowledge the accomplishments that led to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois being named as Chicago Lawyer's 2024 "Person of the Year." The program will feature musical selections, black history trivia questions, and a panel discussion. Our distinguished panelists are the Hon. David Coar (retired), who served this district for nearly 25 years and chaired the merit selection committee of Senators Durbin and Duckworth, the Hon. Frank Valderrama, the first Panamanian-American to serve as an Article III judge in this district, and the Hon. Jeannice Appenteng, the first African-American woman to serve as a magistrate judge in this district. Moderating the panel will be Daniel Cotter, the Emmy-nominated co-producer of "Bridging the Divide" who served as Chicago Bar Association President from 2014-2015 and is currently at Dickenson Wright.

In conjunction with this celebration, the Court will be showcasing our diverse judges in displays in the History Museum.

To access the program registration page, please click [here](#).