



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

## District Court Hosts Panel on Voting Rights of People in Criminal Justice System



March 14, 2018- Today the U.S. District Court hosted “Voting Behind Bars,” a panel discussion on the critical topic of the restoration of the voting rights of people who have gone through the criminal justice system, sponsored by the Seventh Circuit Bar Association Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Presiding Magistrate Judge Maria Valdez welcomed participants and panelists to the courthouse. The panel featured Nancy Abudu, Legal Director, ACLU of Florida; Leah Aden, Senior Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund; Nasir Blackwell, Community Organizer, Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN); Dr. Christina Rivers, Associate Professor of Political Science, DePaul University and Coordinator, Law and Politics Think Tank, Stateville Correctional Center; and Ami Gandhi, Director of Voting Rights and Civic Empowerment, Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights. Today’s panel was the fourth in a four-part series on voting rights.