



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

Release Date:
December 7, 2016

Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2514A
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

**District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Welcomes Illinois High Schoolers
Participating in “We the People” Hearings**

Chicago, Ill. - On Friday, December 2, the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted the 28th Annual Illinois State Finals of We the People State Hearings at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse. More than 180 high school students, representing eight Illinois high schools, demonstrated their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution.

Chief Judge Rubén Castillo personally welcomed the participants and competition judges to the courthouse. “Our courthouse is your courthouse. We are delighted to host this important program at the District Court,” said Chief Judge Castillo.

During the day-long competition in the James Benton Parsons Ceremonial Courtroom students had the opportunity to evaluate, take and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues before a simulated congressional hearing committee consisting of constitutional scholars, lawyers, government leaders and civic educators who judged the classes’ performances.

The Illinois We the People program, which aims to promote civic competence and responsibility among today’s youth, is sponsored by the Illinois Center for Civic Education.

###

