

## Court Information Release



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

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the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **District Court, in Partnership with the American Bar Association, Hosts Fifth Annual Honorable John F. Grady Teachers Institute**

On July 16, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, along with the American Bar Association (ABA), hosted the fifth annual Honorable John F. Grady Teachers Institute at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago.

“We are so delighted to welcome teachers and to support education aimed at understanding the rule of law and the importance of an impartial judiciary,” said Chief Judge Virginia Kendall.

Through panels and small group discussions, participating teachers explored how *stare decisis* and precedent work in theory and in day-to-day practice, as well as historic moments when courts have overturned precedent. The participating teachers engaged with Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall, District Judge Andrea R. Wood, Senior District Judge Thomas M. Durkin, lawyers, and law professors, as they explored how to effectively incorporate the concept of *stare decisis* their classroom curriculum.

In 2020, Judge Grady’s former law clerks established, in the late judge’s honor, the Honorable John F. Grady Teachers Institute and Student Court Field Trip Scholarship, an experiential learning program for students, to be jointly administered with the ABA.

Judge Grady was nominated to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, by President Gerald R. Ford on October 20, 1975. He was sworn in on November 21, 1975 and served as the Court’s chief judge from July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1990. He took senior status on May 23, 1994 through January 30, 2015. Judge Grady passed away on December 2, 2019 at the age of 90.

The Teachers Institute is open to all kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. If interested in joining the 2026 Institute, please contact the Court’s Public Services Administrator, Lauren Thiel, at [Lauren.Thiel@ilnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Lauren.Thiel@ilnd.uscourts.gov)

