

INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Upon visiting the Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse, students can see, sometimes for the first time, federal civil and criminal cases in progress and, if time permits, can talk informally with a federal judge. Students will also learn that on any given day similar actions are taking place in hundreds of federal courtrooms all across the country. To help students better understand the role of the federal courts in national government and in their own lives, the Court's Educational Programming Advisory Committee has compiled various resources to be incorporated into classroom activities and curricula, either before or after a visit to the Court.

The Reading Guide to *Federal Courts and What They Do*, Historic Trials, Famous Appeals, and Webquest worksheets were created to give you and your students a starting point for classroom discussion. If you find the materials are not appropriate to your grade level, please feel free to modify them as you see fit. Another excellent source for educational materials is the website of the federal judiciary, found at www.uscourts.gov.

The Court expresses its sincere appreciation to Erika Cook, Chair of the Educational Programming Advisory Committee, as well as Committee members Matt Furfaro, Kevin McKeown, and Seth Molnar for their dedication to the Court in contributing their valuable services to the Court and the community.