Northern Illinois District Court
Federal Trials Institute for Teachers
Friday, July 26 from 8:00 am – 4:45 pm
Dirksen Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60604

Draft Agenda

8:00 – 8:15 am  Arrive at the Dirksen Federal Building
Please Allow time to go through security.

8:30 – 9:00 am  Welcome, Continental Breakfast, Introductions

9:00 – 9:30 am  The Judicial Branch in a Representative Government –
Opportunities for Teaching U.S. History and Civics
This overview of the federal courts will provide a framework for understanding the role of the
judiciary within our constitutional system.

9:30 – 10:15 Curriculum Connection: Chicago Seven Conspiracy Trial
Themes from the trial (civil disobedience, due process, influence of public
opinion in high profile cases) will be explored to develop essential
questions to guide student learning.

10:30 am – 12:00 pm  Courtroom Visit

12:00 – 12:45 pm  Lunch and Debrief of Courtroom Visit
(Opportunity to discuss the role of the District Court of the Northern
District of Illinois within the federal court system)

12:45 – 2:00 pm  The Chicago Seven Conspiracy Trial
Historical Context Presentation and Discussion from a legal historian

2:00 – 3:00 pm  A Judge’s Perspective on the Chicago Seven Conspiracy Trial
(Opportunity to discuss how a judge handles instructing a jury and dealing
with a high profile case).

3:00 – 3:15 pm  Panel Discussion with Judge and Historian

3:15 – 3:25 pm  Break

3:25 – 4:25 pm  Curriculum Connection: Chicago Seven Conspiracy Trial
Participants will work in small groups to discuss remaining questions that they have about the
case and to brainstorm ways to address the content from this trial in their classrooms.

4:25 – 4:45 pm  Wrap-Up and Adjourn