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
Mary Ellen Daneels, Lead Teacher Mentor for the McCormick Foundation
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
Professor Chris Schmidt, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Historical Context Presentation and Discussion from a legal scholar

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
Mary Ellen Daneels
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