Northern Illinois District Court
Federal Courts Institute for Teachers
Friday, July 26 from 8:00 am – 4:30 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 – 9:45 am The Judicial Branch in a Representative Government – Opportunities for Teaching U.S. History
This historical overview of the organization of the federal courts will provide a framework for understanding the role of the judiciary within our constitutional system. It will also suggest ways to incorporate judicial history into history and government curricula.

10:00 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 – 1:45 pm The Chicago Seven Conspiracy Trial
Historical Context Presentation and Discussion

1:45 – 2:45 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).

2:45 – 3:15 pm Panel Discussion with Judge and Historian

3:15 – 3:25 pm Break

3:25 – 4:15 pm Curriculum Connections: 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.

4:15 – 4:30 pm Wrap-Up and Adjourn