

## Court Information Release



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

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**Contact:** Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer  
United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
219 S. Dearborn St., #2514A  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-435-5693

### **Court Honors Native American Heritage Month with Panel, Cultural Presentation**

Chicago, Ill. – On November 20, 2024, the Court, in partnership with the Federal Bar Association, Chicago Chapter, commemorated 100 years of Native American citizenship in honor of Native American Heritage Month with a panel discussion on the complicated history of Native American voting rights.

“What an enriching opportunity for the court community to learn from our panelists about the historical and ongoing challenges Native Americans have faced in the area of voting rights,” said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall.

The panel discussion was kicked off with a dance and drum tribute by the Black Hawk Performance Company. Panelists include University of Wisconsin Law School Native American legal scholar Torey Dolan and Jay Young, an enrolled citizen of Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Thunder clan, and the co-executive director of the American Indian Center in Chicago. Cheyenne Rivera, a litigation associate at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, moderated the panel. Ms. Rivera is an enrolled member of the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, and is active in pro bono litigation on behalf of Native American groups and causes.

This month marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. The joint Court and FBA program, titled “Citizenship and Voting Rights of Native Americans,” featured a discussion of the landmark statute’s impact on Native American citizenship and how voting rights for Native Americans have evolved over the years and contemporary challenges to the expansion of Native voting rights.

In conjunction with the panel discussion, the Court is showcasing 7 banners dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Native American Citizenship Act in the first-floor lobby of the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse.

The Court's co-sponsorship of the event with the Federal Bar Association, Chicago Chapter, includes the Court's Committee for Access, Opportunity & Community Engagement.

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