

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## Open Doors to Federal Courts

### Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

Volunteers are needed to participate in this year's Open Doors to Federal Courts program to occur in **April, 2015**. Open Doors is a national initiative in which Federal Judges introduce high school students to the Federal Justice System and encourage students to pursue careers in the justice system. The Minnesota District Court has participated for many years.

Each year, the program features classroom visits that introduce some aspect of the law and includes presentations by members of local bar associations who explain why they chose their career, how they prepared themselves academically, and why they believe their service makes a difference. Following the classroom visits, the students attend a half-day follow-up assembly designed to reinforce the themes first introduced in the classroom.

This year the program will focus on the life and career of **Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall**, one of the greatest lawyers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Twin Cities Public Television has recently broadcast a documentary about Justice Marshall called, *Mr. Civil Rights*. In March, the one man play, *Thurgood*, will be presented by the Illusion Theater in Minneapolis. The high school visits will occur in April.

The classroom visits will include a brief academic presentation about Justice Marshall, following which volunteer lawyers and/or judges will speak with the students about their careers and answer the students' questions.

This year's half day follow-up assembly will feature an excerpt from the play, *Thurgood*, following which a panel of lawyers and judges will discuss the impact Justice Marshall had in shaping 21<sup>st</sup> Century America.

There will be a **volunteer recruitment/orientation meeting** on **March 9, 2015; at 4:30 PM** in the **2d floor Jury Assembly Room** in the **Minneapolis Federal Courthouse** (300 South Fourth Street; Minneapolis, MN 55415). Please come to learn more about the program. If you participated in last year's program, please come back, and bring three friends. If you are new to the program, please come and learn more about this exciting opportunity to impact the lives of young people.

For more information about Open Doors to Federal Courts, call:

Magistrate Judge Franklin Noel (612-664-5110)

Or visit: < <http://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/Community-Outreach.shtml> >