



**U.S. DISTRICT COURT
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS**

Recurring Outreach Projects

Naturalizations

The District of Minnesota naturalizes approximately 12,000-15,000 new citizens each year. Ceremonies are held throughout the State of Minnesota at locations such as schools, community centers, libraries, and government buildings. Ceremonies often involve local school children, local politicians, and other community groups. Special ceremonies are also held in emergency instances for members of the armed forces who are deploying or for those in hospice care. Community groups play an integral role, such as the professional Minnesota Chorale singing the National Anthem at dozens of ceremonies throughout the year



Minority Judges Reception

The annual Minority Judges Reception honors our minority judges in the Minnesota State and Federal Courts.

This event celebrates the diversity of our judiciary and commitment to furthering EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW, as well as acknowledging our retiring judges. It is extremely important to build and cultivate relationships with our fellow members of the judiciary and local practitioners. This event provides an opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues, as well as make new connections with members of our great legal community.



Recurring Outreach Projects

Pro Se Project

The *Pro Se* Project is an important initiative of the U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, to improve the administration of justice.

The *Pro Se* Project has worked with well over 1,000 *pro se* litigants, all referred by the District Court. The generous contribution of time and talent by volunteer lawyers enables the *Pro Se* Project to serve the court, assist *pro se* litigants, and enhance access to justice. The project was recognized in 2018 with the Minnesota Lawyer Diversity & Inclusion Award.



Open World Program

The District of Minnesota participates with the Open World Leadership Center in administering an international judicial exchange with post-Soviet countries. Open World's work in Russia, Ukraine, and other Eurasian countries, supports the rising post-Soviet generation's desire for rule of law, less corruption, and more accountability of elected officials. While in the United States, delegates take part in tailored, in-depth exchanges with the Court. Many Open World hosting programs examine the role that legislative bodies play in democracy issues and provides opportunities for the delegates to share their expertise with their U.S. counterparts and host communities.



Recurring Outreach Projects

Open Doors to Federal Courts Program

The Open Doors to Federal Courts Program is an annual initiative that connects high school students with the federal court system.

Highlights from previous Open Doors events include:

2017, 2018 & 2019 Implicit Bias: Volunteer attorneys went into several Social Studies classrooms in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Teams of attorneys lead students through mock trials involving one or two fact patterns. Each fact pattern was designed to include challenging legal and social issues, issues of fairness in the court system, and discussions of bias (both implicit and explicit). A new emphasis of the program is training the attorneys who work with the students to help them be most effective in building bridges and discussing issues of access, bias and fairness. Each team not only introduced the students to the possibility of a career in the law but lead students in discussions of these topics.

2016: This year's model for Open Doors was to hold a mock trial over two days in St. Paul and Minneapolis Public Schools Social Studies classrooms to engage students in a post-trial discussion about the justice system and issues of access, bias, and fairness. This was the first year of the new format and was therefore scaled down in terms of the number of volunteers solicited and classrooms visited.

WHEN: The classroom visits began on March 21 and concluded on April 21. The teachers selected two days in one week for the volunteers to visit the classroom.

There were two training sessions available for the volunteer lawyers. The training sessions touched on implicit bias and how to work with teenage students. Attorneys who attended training received 1.5 CLE Elimination of Bias credits.

WHO: 10 teachers; 27 class sessions, 800 students, 50 lawyers

A group of enthusiastic, young attorneys were recruited to help shape the new format:

- **Johannes Widmalm-Delphonse**, Assistant Hennepin County Public Defender
- **Faith Jackson**, City of Minneapolis, Department of Civil Rights
- **Kendra Barnes**, law clerk to Hennepin County Judge Toddrick Barnette
- **Amran Farah**, Associate at the Waldeck Law Firm

WHAT ELSE: Judge Susan Richard Nelson participated in a special Open Doors classroom visit with FBA National President, Magistrate Judge Michael J. Newman (S.D. Ohio) and Tara Norgard at Minneapolis' Roosevelt High School. Each student received a pocket Constitution.

FBA National provided a \$1,500 grant for Open Doors, in which, by request of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Public

Recurring Outreach Projects

Schools Directors of Social Studies, 100 copies of the book, *Black Lives Matter, Special Reports* by Sue Bradford Edwards and Dr. Duchess Harris, were purchased and distributed to the various teachers and schools who participated in Open Doors this year.

Other Open Doors Topics have included:

- 2016** “Second Founding”; Sesquicentennial of the Reconstruction Amendments to the Constitution
- 2015** Thurgood Marshall
- 2014** Dred and Harriet Scott
- 2013** Legacy of Courage and Freedom: Dred and Harriet Scott
- 2012** The First Amendment and Social Media: Students Rights, Wrongs, and Responsibilities
- 2011** Texting While Driving – Reality Check: Sometimes There Are No Do-Over – Today’s Decisions Can Have Legal and Long-Term Consequences
- 2010** First Amendment and Social Media Program: Student Rights, Wrongs, and Responsibilities – Students and Administrators Face Off on Their School’s Facebook Fan Page
- 2009** Texting While Driving – Reality Check: Sometimes There Are No Do-Over – Today’s Decisions Can Have Legal and Long-Term Consequences
- 2008** The Lowdown on Downloading: Whose Property is Intellectual Property on the Internet?
- 2007** Partners in Justice: An Independent Judiciary, a Fair-Minded Jury
- 2006** Jury Service: The Faces of Justice
- 2005** The Role of Courts in Balancing Liberties and Safety



One Time Outreach Projects

2019

June 25, 2019: *Just the Beginning* Student Visit. Over 40 students from the *Just the Beginning* Summer Institute visited the Minneapolis Courthouse. The day-long visit was led by Judge Wright and included a judges' panel, a court reporter demonstration, a presentation by a Deputy US Marshal, a lunchtime panel on job opportunities in the federal judiciary, and an attorney panel.

"For many students, particularly students of color and those from low-income backgrounds, the path to law school or a successful legal career is not always clear. The *Just the Beginning* program works to illuminate that path by lighting the spark of recognition that it is possible to become a lawyer and a leader." <https://jtb.org/>



April 25, 2019: Take Your Child to Work Day. Over two dozen children between the ages of 8 and 12 attended the District of Minnesota's *Take Your Child to Work Day*. The day-long program included a fingerprinting activity, judges' panel, tour of the Chief Judge's courtroom and chambers, a realtime demonstration from a court reporter, a visit from not one, but *two* bomb dogs, from the US Marshals and ATF. The children also participated in a scavenger hunt to find items such as a copy of Article III of the U.S. Constitution, a photo of Chief Justice Roberts, and a statute of Lady Justice, which were hidden around the Minneapolis Courthouse's top floor. The day-long program ended with a service project in which the children and their chaperones made over 600 sandwiches for area homeless shelters in under an hour!



One Time Outreach Projects

April 13, 2019: Girls Scouts Innovation Sensation. Fifty Girl Scouts in 2nd through 5th grade visited the St. Paul Courthouse for the second "Innovation Sensation" event sponsored by the Court and the Intellectual Property Committee of the Federal Bar Association. This program provided insights into product innovation, patents, trademarks, and copywrites. The program was led by Magistrate Judge Bowbeer and Magistrate Judge Schultz, with special help from Judge Tostrud and numerous volunteers from the FBA.

Girls were able to create their own patent, trademark and commercial to market their brand new product.



April 4, 2019: Economic Espionage UMN Event. The Court, along with the Federal Bar Association – Minnesota Chapter’s Diversity and Outreach Committees, the University of Minnesota China Center, and Kingsfield Law, sponsored a public reception and speaker panel at the University of Minnesota. Speakers from across the United States, with Judge Leung as moderator, presented different perspectives on two competing tensions: potential threats to American national security and economic espionage with the ascendancy of China on the one hand, and on the other, the potential racial profiling of Chinese and other Asians, such as those against Dr. Wen Ho Lee, Professor Xiaoxing Xi, and US National Weather Service hydrologist Xiafen Sherry Chen.



One Time Outreach Projects

May 2, 2019: Duluth MN CLE & Reception. The Court and the Minnesota Chapter of Federal Bar Association held a CLE discussing implicit bias, which was moderated by U.S. District Judge Nancy Brasel, at the Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse in Duluth, MN. Other panelists included Assistant U.S. Attorney Surya Saxena, Chief Public Defender for the Judicial District Daniel Lew, and Sybil Dunlap of Green Espel PLLP.

The evening also included a reception with the federal bench hosted by Chief Judge John Tunheim and Magistrate Judge Leo Brisbois. Members of the Duluth and Twin Cities legal communities were in attendance, including U.S. Attorney Erica MacDonald.



Posthumous Portrait Ceremonies. In 2018 and 2019 the Court commissioned portraits celebrating the lives of former Chief Judges Gunnar Nordbye and Philip Neville.



One Time Outreach Projects

2018

July 17, 2018: *Just the Beginning* Student Visit. On Tuesday, July 17 over 40 students from the Just the Beginning Summer Institute visited the Minneapolis Courthouse. The 2018 format followed the same general outline as the 2019 program and was a huge success.



June 18, 2018: Court Camp. The U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota partnered with the Federal Bar Association on a youth court summer camp. The FBA reached out to the Minneapolis public schools and targeted at-risk youth. The students attending Court Camp were already in a summer school program and this week satisfied

the civics/social studies education credit that they did not receive during the school year. This was a pilot project that brought 13 high school students to learn about the law, the federal courts, and about possible careers in the justice system. Each day students learned about a different aspect of the court, including criminal justice, law enforcement, intellectual property, naturalization, and civil litigation. The Court partnered with area attorneys and law firms, as well as federal law enforcement agencies, to make the program engaging and inspiring.



One Time Outreach Projects

May 2018: Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. In connection with Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the District of Minnesota presented a program for all its employees that included a showing of the PBS movie "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights" about Fred Korematsu and the Japanese Incarceration in World War II. The program was made possible with assistance from the Japanese American Citizens League - MN Chapter's Education Committee, MNAPBA-MN, and PBS. While this program does not fit into what is ordinarily categorized as "community outreach," the program aimed to share with the District of Minnesota's employees program content from the Court's community outreach programs.



2017

January 2017: American Denial Film event

What: Screening of the film *American Denial* and panel discussion on Reconstruction Amendments; roughly 300 people were in attendance. *American Denial* is a documentary that presents the work of Swedish researcher Gunnar Myrdal, who studied social conditions in the Jim Crow South.

1.0 Elimination of Bias CLE credit was approved.

When: January 31, 2017

Where: Normandale Community College in West Bloomington

Who: **Dr. Joyce Esther**, President of Normandale, welcomed everyone to the campus;

Chief Judge Tunheim gave opening remarks;

Tara Norgard described the Second Founding competition;

Normandale History Professor Lisa Rude provided the context of how the union war effort evolved from preserving the Union to ending slavery. She clearly captured the essence of how competing visions for reconstruction generated the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

Magistrate Judge Noel introduced the

PANELISTS:

- **Llewellyn Smith:** *American Denial* film maker
- **Donald M. Lewis:** Attorney appointed Special Prosecutor in the investigation of the killing of Philando Castille.

One Time Outreach Projects

- **Judge Tanya M. Bransford**; Hennepin County Judge, Co-Chair and founding member of the Supreme Court's Committee for Equality and Justice and is a founding member of Youthprise.

- **Ivery Baynham**- MCTC student and Hennepin County probationee. Ivery also provided musical and spoken word entertainment during the pre-reception.

NORMANDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dale Lorenz Auditorium, Fine Arts Building, #F-1265
Second Founding Competition Kickoff



American Denial **January 31, 2017**

Free Film Screening, Food, Refreshments, & Panel Discussion
5 PM - Open reception with entertainment by Repurposed
6 PM - American Denial screening & discussion

Sponsored by:
US District Court, District of Minnesota
The Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association
League of Woman Voters - Bloomington
Normandale Community College

For Questions: (612) 664-5110

January 31 – March 13, 2017: Second Founding Student Competition

What: Minnesota Community and Technical College students were invited to participate in a contest that asked provocative questions on topics addressing the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. (“Second Founding” refers to The Reconstruction Period). The questions were condensed versions of questions posed to the panelists at the Normandale event. The students had a broad range of submission type options (artwork, essay, photograph, etc.)

When: The contest ran from January 31 - March 13, 2017.

Who: All Minnesota Colleges, Universities and Community College students were eligible to participate.

Additional Notes: This was the first year working with colleges and college students.

February 2017: The District of Minnesota's Asian Legal Experience in America Exhibition banners were on display at the Minnesota Historical Society's 75th Anniversary of the Japanese-American Incarceration during WWII.

One Time Outreach Projects

March 2017: The District of Minnesota's Latino Legal Experience in America banners were on loan by the Hispanic Bar Association and were displayed at their annual gala at Lowes Minneapolis Hotel.

March 2017: The District of Minnesota's Asian Legal Experience in America Exhibition banners were on display at the Minnesota State Court Law Library. The Minnesota State Law Library hosted a showing of the PBS film "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story." Magistrate Judge Tony Leung introduced the film and answered questions about Mr. Korematsu, the infamous decision, and the subsequent grant of a writ of coram nobis.

May 2017: Open Doors Reception

What: A reception was held to celebrate the District of Minnesota's involvement in Open Doors. The President of the National FBA, Magistrate Judge Michael J. Newman (S.D. Ohio) came to Minnesota to see firsthand the outreach efforts the District of Minnesota. The atrium was filled with photographs of every year of Open Doors since Judge Frank started the program in 1999. The reception showcased the Gilder-Lehrman Exhibit, *Emancipation and Its Legacies*, a traveling exhibit that fit in perfectly with our five-year long celebration of the "Second Founding."

When: Friday, May 5, 2017

Where: 15th Floor Atrium

Who: Invitations were extended to all FBA members, court staff, and past and present Open Doors volunteers. There were about 100 guests in attendance.

SPEAKERS:

1. Tara Norgard highlighted the Gilder-Lehrman Exhibit, *Emancipation and Its Legacies*;
2. Judge Frank talked about the lasting effect Open Doors has on high school students;
 - a. -Magistrate Judge Menendez talked about this year's Open Doors program and the work that went into it;
 - b. - Magistrate Judge Michael J. Newman said how impressed he is with the District of Minnesota's history of outreach;
3. Chief Judge Tunheim gave closing remarks.

June 2017: The District of Minnesota's Asian Legal Experience in America Exhibition banners were on display at the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education 2017 Convention.

October 12, 2017: Economic Espionage and National Security

What: a program presented by the U.S. District Court for the District of MN, the FBA-MN Chapter, and the NAPABA-MN Chapter

The program featured presentations and panel discussions by:

One Time Outreach Projects

FBI Special Agent Shena Crow spoke on (a) the current threats posed by state sponsored actors to acquire trade secrets and national security information in technologies of priority and interest; (b) techniques involving human intelligence and social engineering; and (c) best practices for protecting such information. Brian Sun, who represented Dr. Wen Ho Lee, described his experience representing Dr. Lee in an investigation and case that lasted many years and ended with a U.S. District Judge apologizing to the defendant and his family for the injustices that had occurred. Additional perspective was provided by Judge Michael J. Davis, who sat on the FISA Court from 1999-2006, when Dr. Lee's case came to light. Peter Zeidenberg, Partner at Arent Fox, represented Dr. Xiaoxing Xi and Professor Xiafen "Sherry" Chen. Mr. Zeidenberg provided an overview of Dr. Xi and Professor Chen's cases.



December 15, 2017: Latino Legal Experience Part 2

What: U.S. District Judge Ann D. Montgomery and members of the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association (Jerry Alcazar, Amy Conners, Roxy Gonzalez, Joe Nuñez and Aleida Conners) visited Cristo Rey High School for four presentations with members of their senior class. The students had prepared for the visit by viewing the *Someone Like Me Can Do This* video, as well as the highlight video from Justice Sotomayor's visit last year.

The students arrived with many questions which the panel answered by sharing their experiences growing up and working in the legal field with backgrounds very much like the students in attendance.



One Time Outreach Projects

2016

October 18, 2016: Latino Legal Experience in Minnesota

What: Over 100 Latino students from the Minneapolis and St. Paul area participated in an interactive program that featured a meet-and-greet and Q&A session with Justice Sotomayor, who shared her experiences growing up and how her ethnicity has shaped her life.

Middle school and high school students in attendance were selected based on their writing, artwork, and oral history projects submitted to the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association (MHBA) on the theme *My Past, My Future: Latino in Minnesota*.

2015

November 2, 2015: *Why Treaties Matter*. Exhibit on display in Courthouse Atrium with a reception

May 20, 2015: Asian Pacific Legal Experience in America: Opportunity, Economics, Racism and Hope Exhibit on display in Courthouse Atrium with a reception and short program. There were approximately 200 people in attendance.

May 12, 2015 - Mr. Civil Rights: Thurgood Marshall and the NACP. Screening and Panel Discussion at

Bloomington Civic Plaza. There were approximately 175 people in attendance.

March 11, 2015: Illusion Theater Presents, Thurgood. 10:00 a.m. performance and panel discussion with Representative Keith Ellison afterwards at Illusion Theater; 6:00 p.m. performance and panel discussion afterwards (Judge Davis, Judge Frank, Magistrate Judge Keyes, Minnesota Court of Appeals Judge Kevin Ross and Hennepin County Court Judge Pam Alexander) at Illusion Theater.

February 23, 2015: A Celebration of Minnesota Women in the Law. Reception and short program to kick off the opening of new exhibit – Courthouse Atrium
There were approximately 200 people in attendance.

2014

June 6, 2014: Freedom Riders Exhibit. Exhibit and reception - Courthouse Atrium.

September 15, 2014: Dinner Honoring Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Diana E. Murphy. Reception and Dinner held at Windows on Minnesota; 300 people in attendance.

2013

October 24, 2013: Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers in Germany Under the Third Reich. Exhibit and Opening Ceremony - Courthouse Atrium.

Awards

2019 Macalester Alumni Board of Directors, Catharine Lealtad Service to Society Award:

Judge Michael J. Davis

2019 Making a Difference Award by the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, Deafblind & Hard of Hearing:

Judge Donovan W. Frank

2019 Wallace-Lerner Excellence in Leadership Award from Mitchell Hamline Law Review:

Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Cowan Right

2018 Wallace-Lerner Excellence in Leadership Award from Mitchell Hamline Law Review:

Magistrate Judge Leo I. Brisbois

2018 Minnesota Lawyer - Attorneys of the Year: Recognition for Outstanding Service:

Magistrate Judge Franklin L. Noel

2017 Minnesota Lawyer - Attorneys of the Year: Recognition for Outstanding Service:

Judge Richard H. Kyle: “Presided over some of the state’s biggest federal cases.”

Judge Ann D. Montgomery: “Federal Jurist sees need for more cracks in glass ceiling.”

Judge Donovan W. Frank: “Pioneered use of therapists’ testimony in abuse cases.”

2017 Minnesota Lawyer - Unsung Heroes: Diversity & Inclusion Award:

Judge Michael J. Davis

Judge Donovan W. Frank

2011 ABA Outstanding Law Day Activity Award:

United States District Court District of Minnesota

2011 Harrison Tweed Award:

Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association