

# Bicentennial Presentation

“It Would Be Inhumane and Cruel:”

A Brief History of Immigration Law and the Bold Decisions of Judges  
from the Northern District of Illinois, 1907-1940

June 18, 2019  
3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

U.S. District Court  
Northern District of Illinois  
Court History Museum  
21st Floor  
219 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL

RSVP requested to  
ILND\_RSVP@ilnd.uscourts.gov

In honor of the 200th anniversary of federal courts in Illinois, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Northern District of Illinois Court Historical Association present, *“It Would Be Inhumane and Cruel:” A Brief History of Immigration Law and the Bold Decisions of Judges from the Northern District of Illinois, 1907-1940*, a talk by Professor Felice Batlan.

One of the central and ongoing tenets and contradictions in U.S. history has been our simultaneous embrace of immigrants and the immigrant dream while demanding that Congress enact harsh restrictive immigration laws. In the period of 1907 to 1940, anti-immigration sentiment was reaching a zenith, which included deportation raids and the cancellation of naturalization certificates. Some judges from the Northern District of Illinois made bold decisions in habeas corpus proceedings brought by immigrants and read immigration laws, rules, and procedures in a humanitarian spirit that protected both immigrants and their families.



Professor Batlan

Felice Batlan is a Professor of Law at IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law. She is the author of *Women and Justice to the Poor: A History of Legal Aid, 1863-1945* (Cambridge, 2015) which won the 2016 Willard Hurst Prize. Her groundbreaking work explores interactions between law, gender, history, and the legal profession. Her scholarship appears in numerous law reviews, history journals, and anthologies.

She was the Book Review Editor for *Law and History Review* and was an associate editor of Macmillan’s *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court* and the journal *Continuity and Change*. She has taught and lectured throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia and her work has been translated into numerous languages. She was an NYU Golieb Fellow, a Hurst Fellow, a Freehling Fellow, and received the CCWH/Berkshire Women’s History Award. Her J.D. is from Harvard, *magna cum laude*, and her PhD in history is from NYU. She clerked for Judge Constance Baker Motley in the Southern District of New York.

Professor Batlan teaches contracts, business organizations, immigration, and gender and the law. She is the co-director of Chicago-Kent’s Institute for Law and the Humanities.

Please join us for this special presentation with reception to follow on June 18, 2018, in the Court History Museum on the 21st floor. RSVP requested, but not required, to ILND\_RSVP@ilnd.uscourts.gov

