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# The Historical Society of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Inc.

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http://www.insd.uscourts.gov/court-historical-society

# PRESS RELEASE

# Federal Court Historical Society Releases Documentary Film Highlighting 200 Years of Court History

Indianapolis (May 25, 2017) – The Historical Society of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana is celebrating the bicentennial of Indiana's federal courts with the release of a documentary film. A premiere of *And Justice for All: Indiana's Federal Courts* will be held on June 14 at 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana War Memorial, 431 North Meridian St., Indianapolis, Indiana. Those interested in attending this free premiere screening, which will be followed by a brief reception, may register by visiting <a href="https://sdcourt-doc-premiere.eventbrite.com">https://sdcourt-doc-premiere.eventbrite.com</a>. An application for one hour of Continuing Legal Education credit for members of the Bar is pending.

The film will also air on WFYI on June 15, 2017 at 9:00 p.m. A link to the trailer for the film may be found <u>here</u>. In addition to providing an overview of the history of Indiana's federal courts, the film will portray the events surrounding three cases of historical significance:

- Ex parte Milligan, in which Indiana's federal court played a role in answering the Constitutional question of whether civilians are eligible for prosecution by a military tribunal when civilian courts are open. This Civil War-era case made its way to the Supreme Court of the United States.
- United States v. Ryan, et al., a case involving members of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers who were prosecuted for their roles in allegedly having conspired to bomb their way to the bargaining table, resulting in the deaths of 21 people at the The Los Angeles Times and thousands of dollars in property damage. The 1912 conspiracy trial lasted three months and brought international media attention to Indianapolis.
- Finally, the film includes a reenactment of key moments from *United States v. Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis*, the Indianapolis Public Schools desegregation case that began in 1968 and continued until 2016, when the busing order of Judge S. Hugh Dillin finally expired.

The film was produced by Gudaitis Production, a documentary and educational film production company, led by David Gudaitis, Ph.D., Alan Backler, Ph.D., and Larry Laswell, M.A.

In addition to the premiere and the WFYI broadcast, the film will be made available on the Court's Website and will be accompanied by a teacher's guide to assist students across the State in learning about the history and importance of the federal judiciary in Indiana.

The film is made possible by the contributions of members and sponsors of the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, an Indiana Historical Society Heritage Support Grant made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc., the Indiana Bar Foundation, and the R. B. Annis Educational Foundation.

The Historical Society of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Inc. is an Indiana public-benefit, nonprofit corporation dedicated to recovering, preserving, and promoting the history and artifacts of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, and educating the public about the role and function of the Court. As part of its mission, the Historical Society also undertakes projects designed to preserve and enhance the historical, artistic, and architectural character of the Court's facilities. The Historical Society produces publications, special events, and other projects to achieve its goals in education and restoration.

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