

## Press Release

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

**The Federal Court Family Celebrates Black History Month with**

### **Booker T. Washington Slept Here: African American Politics in Indiana in the early 1900s**

**Friday, February 14, 2020, 2:00 pm**

(For Immediate Release)—January 15, 2020: From the late 1890s through his death in 1915, Booker T. Washington was likely the most famous Black man in the United States. During this time, he traveled the country raising money for the Tuskegee Institute and cultivating supporters—both African American and white. Washington made numerous visits to Indiana in the early 1900s.

**On Friday, February 14, 2020**, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana will host Dr. Modupe Labode as she presents “Booker T. Washington Slept Here: African American Politics in Indiana in the early 1900s.” Dr. Labode will examine how Washington’s visits to Indiana put a spotlight on the concerns of African American political activists at the beginning of the twentieth century. Many of these issues that African Americans then faced—including opposition to lynching, educational equality, personal safety, and free access to public accommodations—would become key components of the twentieth-century’s civil rights movement. **This free event will begin at 2:00 pm in the William E. Steckler Ceremonial Courtroom (courtroom 202) at the Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse, 46 East Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.**

Dr. Labode is a curator at the National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. Before joining the museum, she taught history, museum studies, and Africana Studies at IUPUI from 2007-2019, where she was also a Public Scholar of African American History and Museums. Dr. Labode’s previous experience includes working as the chief historian at the Colorado Historical Society and teaching at Iowa State University. She has published articles on the history of African Americans in Colorado and in Indianapolis, and her current research explores the relationship between public art and monuments. She obtained her Ph.D. in History from Oxford University and her bachelor’s degree at Iowa State University.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Tonya Martin. Ms. Martin is the lead soloist in the Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Indianapolis. She also sings in a local group, The Tony Bryant Project.

This program will last one hour, and .8 hour of Continuing Legal Education credit has been approved. **Pre-registration is NOT required.**

The program is free and open to the public. Photography will be permitted during the program. If you would like to send a photographer and/or reporter to cover the program, or if you have other questions, please contact Doria Lynch at 317-229-3729 or [Doria\\_Lynch@insd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Doria_Lynch@insd.uscourts.gov).