

Press Release

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

Cesar Chavez: Life, Work, and Legacy

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with the U.S. District Court and Indiana State Bar Association

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 4, 2024): “When the man who feeds the world by toiling in the fields is himself deprived of the basic rights of feeding, sheltering and caring for his own family, the whole community of man is sick.” – Cesar Chavez

Migrant workers play a vital role in the American and global economy. They also face significant challenges, including an increased risk of physical and sexual abuse and exploitation, gaps in education, lack of access to health resources, and more. Cesar Chavez experienced these struggles first-hand and became a civil rights activist and labor leader in a lifelong effort to improve the lives of farm workers and other at-risk populations.

On Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 2:00 pm EDT, Andres Chavez, Cesar's grandson, will speak about his grandfather's life, work, and legacy in a moderated conversation with Magistrate Judge Mario Garcia. This discussion will be the keynote address at the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana and the Indiana State Bar Association Latino Affairs Committee's eighth annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

As executive director of the National Chavez Center (NCC), Andres Chavez leads the arm of the Cesar Chavez Foundation that educates and promotes the legacy of his grandfather across the nation. The NCC advances Cesar’s legacy and values through the development of educational and cultural programs, brand and intellectual property management, archival stewardship, exhibit production, and overseeing two historic properties, one of which is home to the Cesar E. Chavez National Monument.

The Honorable Mario Garcia was sworn in as Magistrate Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana on April 5, 2021. Judge Garcia was appointed to a new magistrate judgeship created for the Southern District of Indiana by the Judicial Conference of the United States. He is the first judge of Hispanic heritage to serve the Southern District of Indiana.

The program will be held at the Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Indianapolis, in the William E. Steckler Ceremonial Courtroom (courtroom 202). It will also be available virtually via Zoom. Mariachi Azteca will perform at the event.

The program will last one hour and one hour of Continuing Legal Education credit has been approved.

Pre-registration is required, whether attending in person or via Zoom, and is available at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/cesarchavez>. There is no cost to attend, and the program is open to the public.

Additionally, attendees are encouraged to participate in a supply drive benefitting [MESA](#), a non-profit organization that empowers communities of migrants and other marginalized populations, to prevent sexual abuse and violence through the development of culturally affirming strategies that grow stronger and healthier communities. MESA, which is housed in the College of Agriculture at Purdue University, will be on hand to accept donations of toys (except for Nerf-style guns and toy weapons); nonperishable food items, particularly dried beans, rice, and boxed macaroni and cheese; personal hygiene items (excluding menstrual products); household cleaning supplies; new or gently used jackets, coats, and blankets/quilts; gift cards; and monetary donations.