



PRESS RELEASE
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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT
ANNOUNCES CONNECTICUT CELEBRATES!**

Chief Judge Janet C. Hall of the United States District Court of the District of Connecticut today announced **CONNECTICUT CELEBRATES!**, a special session of the District Court. The judges of the Court will be joined by many distinguished guests to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the District, as well as the 100th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the Richard C. Lee Courthouse. The celebration will be held on Thursday, October 30, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. at the Lee Courthouse at 141 Church Street, on the Green, in New Haven.

The District Court of Connecticut exists today as it did in 1789, when it was created 225 years ago by the Judiciary Act of 1789. This, combined with President George Washington's appointment of Richard Law as the court's first judge on September 24, 1789, is the reason some refer to it as the "Mother Court" or the "Grandmother Court."

In addition to remarks by Chief Judge Hall, the commemoration will feature remarks by the Honorable José A. Cabranes, United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and former Connecticut District Court chief judge, and a keynote address by Professor John F. Witt, the Allen H. Duffy Class of 1960 Professor of Law at Yale Law School.

Chief Judge Hall said of the anniversary commemoration: "From the very beginning and down throughout the years, ours remains one of the longest courts of uninterrupted service of the administration of justice based upon our great Constitution. We are proud and delighted to mark this history in celebrating our 225th Anniversary of the District. As we celebrate the many contributions our Court has made to the development of the rule of law in our great country, we also mark the 100th Anniversary of the Lee Courthouse. We are proud of our place in our nation's history, and we look forward to a bright future of serving the American people in upholding the Rule of Law."

Professor Witt's remarks will focus on the building and design of the Lee Courthouse and the history of the federal courts in the United States. He said of the anniversary commemoration: "For one hundred years, the federal building that James Gamble Rogers designed for the New Haven Green has housed a federal district court. But in its inception the courtroom was something of an afterthought. Like federal buildings across the country a century ago, Rogers's building was a post office first and a courthouse second. And that tells us something important about the history of the federal courts in the United States. Their great significance in our legal system today is the product of an incomplete modernist project — the same incomplete modernist project that dominates debates over Rogers's architectural legacy. The story of the federal courts and the story of the New Haven federal courthouse are two pieces in a 20th- and 21st-century tale, one that is still in the making."

Currently there are thirteen district judges on the Connecticut bench, with one vacancy, in addition to five magistrate judges and three bankruptcy judges.

NOTE: All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a driver's license), as well as valid media credentials. Please allow additional time for security screening. Media interested in attending must RSVP by 12 noon EDT on Wednesday, October 29, 2014, to Robin Tabora at commentstotheclerkofcourt@ctd.uscourts.gov.

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