

Press Release

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

The Complex History of Citizenship: Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with: Dr. Dan-el Padilla Peralta

Indianapolis, Indiana (August 11, 2020): At the age of four, Dan-el Padilla Peralta arrived in New York City from the Dominican Republic. Initially, his family intended only to visit the city, but were forced to stay due to medical complications resulting from his mother's pregnancy. Eventually, seeing the vast benefits that America could offer their children, his parents made the choice to remain in New York City. Despite his undocumented status, the young boy rose from poverty and homelessness to obtain his Ph.D. and is now an Associate Professor of Classics at Princeton University.

On Friday, September 25, 2020, at 3:00 pm EDT, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana and the Indiana State Bar Association Latino Affairs Committee will welcome Dr. Padilla Peralta as the keynote speaker at their fourth annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. Due to social distancing limitations caused by the ongoing pandemic, the event will be held virtually.

Dr. Padilla Peralta will discuss a range of historical and contemporary approaches to the dilemmas of citizenship. From immigration advocacy to the Movement for Black Lives, activists in the United States and throughout the world have drawn attention to the design and institutionalization of different forms of (unequal) citizenship. Dr. Padilla Peralta will map a history of citizenship as a concept and institution from the ancient Mediterranean world to the 21st century. Key questions for discussion will include: Who/what is a citizen? What are the social prerogatives and legal rights that come with citizenship, and how (in)consistent are these across time and space? Who is eligible to become a citizen? How are exclusion and marginalization wired into the historical legacies and present-day practice of citizenship? How is citizenship imagined and narrated?

Dr. Dan-el Padilla Peralta graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University in 2006 with a degree in Classics and a certificate in the School of Public and International Affairs. He was awarded the Daniel M. Sachs Class of 1960 Graduating Scholarship to read for the M.Phil. in Greek and Roman History at Oxford University (2008). Dr. Padilla earned his Ph.D. in Classics from Stanford University in 2014. After a two-year postdoctoral term as Mellon Research Fellow and Lecturer in Classics at Columbia University's Society for Fellows, he joined the Classics Department at Princeton. He is affiliated with the Programs in Latino Studies, Latin American Studies, and the University Center for Human Values.

Dr. Padilla is the author of *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League* (2015) and *Divine Institutions: Religions and Community in the Middle Republic* (2020). He co-edited *Rome, Empire of Plunder: The Dynamics of Cultural Appropriation* (2017). His writing, teaching, and research are guided by a firm commitment to anti-racist principles.

The program will last one hour and one hour of Continuing Legal Education credit is pending. Pre-registration is required and is available by visiting the [Indiana State Bar Association's website](#). Those who register will receive a link to join the event via email. There is no cost to attend and the program is open to the public. If you have any questions, please contact Doria Lynch at 317-229-3729 or Doria_lynch@insd.uscourts.gov