



**LINCOLN HISTORIAN TO BE  
BERGER LECTURER AT USI**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Dr. Cullom Davis, director of the Lincoln Legal Papers for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and professor of history at Sangamon State University in Springfield, will deliver the Sydney Berger Commemorative Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 2, in Forum I at the University of Southern Indiana.**

**The Berger program was initiated by an anonymous gift to honor the Evansville attorney who also was a part-time political science teacher at the University and a leader in civil rights work in the Evansville area. The October 2 program will include Dr. Davis' lecture on "The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln" and remembrances of Sydney Berger by Dr. Charles T. Barber, chair of the Philosophy and Political Science Department, and Dr. Walter A. Hopkins, professor of sociology and president of the Evansville chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. The program is free and open to the public.**

**Dr. Davis is a participant in the 1990-91 Organization of American Historians Lectureship Program. His lecture at USI is supported by a grant from the Indiana Humanities Council and co-sponsored by USI and the Evansville Bar Association as part of local events commemorating the Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights. Dr. Daniel A. Miller, USI professor of history emeritus, is chairman of the Sidney Berger Commemorative Lecture Committee.**

**The goal of this year's program is to provide a way in which area residents familiar with Lincoln as a youth in southern Indiana and later as President of the United States can learn more of the man after he left Indiana and became a lawyer in Illinois. The Lincoln Legal Papers is a major research effort to locate, edit, and publish an estimated 100,000 legal records associated with Abraham Lincoln's quarter-century as a lawyer. The project is expected to take more than 10 years and is supported also by universities, private donors, and federal agencies.**

**Dr. Davis, a native of central Illinois, has been director of the Lincoln Legal Papers since 1988. A graduate of Princeton University, he has a master and Ph.D. in American history from the University of Illinois. His teaching career has taken him to Hawaii and the West Indies and includes six years at Indiana University. He has been at Sangamon since 1970. His writings cover American political history, Abraham Lincoln, legal history, and Illinois history. He is a board member and officer of numerous civic and professional organizations.**

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