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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EASTERN HISTORY PROFESSOR RECEIVES RESEARCH GRANT

CHARLESTON, IL--A \$1,200 research grant, awarded to Christopher Waldrep, an assistant professor of history at Eastern Illinois University, will enable students to interact with historical documents.

Waldrep's proposal was one of seven chosen for a grant by the American Bar Association, from among 65 proposals submitted by faculty from universities across the country.

According to Waldrep, this grant will allow Eastern's history department to create materials for its courses on the U.S. Constitution, more exciting than any textbook.

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During this school year, and the next, records from Warren County, Mississippi's circuit court for the years between 1860 and 1879 will be transcribed into a permanent computer data base listing individual defendants, victims, witnesses, crimes, and outcomes.

Once in place at Eastern Illinois University's Academic Computing Center, this data base will allow students in Eastern's constitutional courses to study the workings of a circuit court in Mississippi during an especially tumultuous period in American history, the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will have access to this data base from terminals in Eastern's Booth Library and computer labs in the Student Services building.

In addition, photocopies of selected case files and typed transcriptions of especially pertinent depositions of testimony will be deposited in Eastern's Booth Library.