

**IVI-IPO 2012 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

**DATE:** December 19, 2011

**PARTY:** Democratic

**NAME:** Dorothy Brown

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**POLITICAL CONSULTANT:** Delmarie Cobb

**NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED:** 30,000 **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 5,693

**A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.**

- Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County – since 2000

**B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.**

- Treasurer, City of Chicago, 1999
- Mayor, City of Chicago, 2007
- President, Cook County Board of Commissioners, 2010

**C) What is your primary occupation?**

- Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

**D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.**

- Chair – Cook County Integrated Criminal Justice Information System Committee
- Chair Outreach Committee – Illinois Integrated Justice Information Systems
- Past President – National Women’s Political Caucus of Greater Chicago
- Past Treasurer – Working in the School, Chicago Public Schools
- Founder and Chairman – Dorothy Brown Scholarship & Community Development Fund
- President – Urban Ministries, First Jurisdiction of Illinois COGIC
- Board Member and Secretary – COGIC Charities, Incorporated (National) (2002 to Present)
- Board Member (Trustee) – King of Glory COGIC (1997 to Present)
- Board Member – First Jurisdiction of Illinois, COGIC, Incorporated
- Board Member – Moriah Community Development Corporation
- Board Member – Citizen’s Action Illinois (2003 to Present)
- Past Board Member – Jobs For Youth, Chicago (2008 to Present)
- Past Board Member – First Jurisdiction Bible College (1998-2005)
- Past Board Member – South Central Community Services, Inc (2002-2003)

- Past Board Member – Illinois CPA Society (2003 – 2005)
- Past Board Member – Cook County Bar Association (2002 – 2004)
- Past Board Member – Black Women Lawyers Association (2000 – 2001)
- Member – NAACP
- Member – Operation PUSH
- Member – National Association of Black Accountants
- Member - Chicago Bar Association
- Member - Cook County Bar Association
- Member - Black Women Lawyers Association
- Member - National Forum for Black Public Administrators
- Member - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
- Member - King of Glory Tabernacle Church of God in Christ.
- Past Member - Illinois Bar Association
- Past Member - Illinois and American Institutes for Certified Public Accountants

**E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?**

I am a certified public accountant, MBA and an attorney. My educational background is as follows:

- Chicago-Kent College of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1995
- DePaul University, Master of Business Administration – Finance, 1981
- Certified Public Accountant, February 1977
- Southern University, Bachelor’s Degree – Accounting/Computer Science, Baton Rouge, LA, 1975

The primary experience that I have which is most important to the management of the Office that I seek, is my 11 years of successfully operating and managing the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. The Cook County Court System is the second largest court system in the United States and is a very complex and complicated legal operations with 2000 employees and an over \$100 million budget. This operation needs a person skilled in both managing complex operations and directing personnel.

My past experience that has already been helpful in managing the Office of the Circuit Court is as follows:

- Worked as an accountant for Commonwealth Edison Company and as an auditor for Arthur Anderson and Company. Both experiences gave me the accounting knowledge to manage a \$100 million budget. My experience at Arthur Anderson working on systems of multi-million dollar corporations gave me the understanding to manage the operation of the Clerk’s Office.
- Worked as an audit manager for First National Bank of Chicago and a senior manager for Odell Hicks and Company Certified Public Accountants. The experience auditing the investments has helped me with the management of the Clerk’s Office investments. My experience auditing major corporations and governments has helped me manage the complex operations of the Clerk’s Office.
- Worked as the general auditor of the Chicago Transit Authority, ensuring control over its multi-billion assets. Developed proper internal control procedures to ensure no risk of loss of assets. This experience has helped me to control the Clerk’s Office assets.

**F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.**

- I coordinated an event and volunteered in the campaign office for the late Alderman Lorraine Dixon in March 1992, for her re-election campaign. (Special election to fill a vacancy).
- I was a poll watcher for the General Election campaign for President Bill Clinton in November 1992.
- I was an assistant campaign manager for the 1998 election campaign of Dan Hynes for Illinois State Comptroller Campaign.

- I personally escorted and introduced former Chicago City Treasurer Judy Rice to many city of Chicago church organizations for her February 2003 election campaign.
- I personally escorted and introduced former President John H. Stroger to many Cook County church organizations for his March 2006 primary re-election campaign.
- I coordinated my campaign schedule for the Clerk of the Circuit Court's race with Barack Obama during his race for U.S. Senator to help him become better known in the African American community.

G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

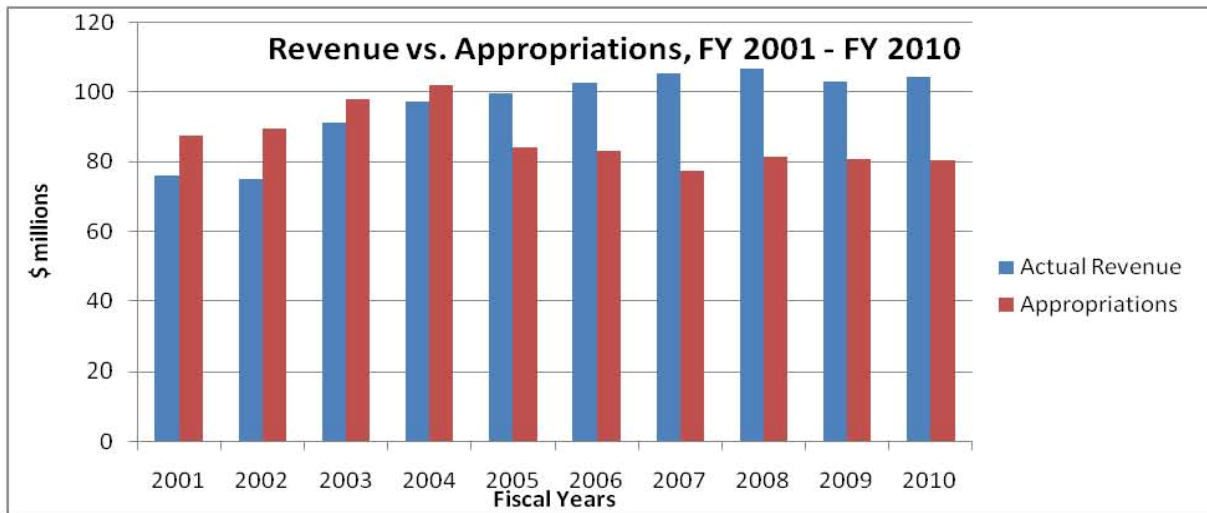
Cook County Democratic Party  
 Cook County Commissioner Deborah Sims  
 Cook County Commissioner Earlean Collins  
 Cook County Commissioner Robert Steele  
 Cook County Commissioner Joan Murphy  
 Cook County Commissioner William Beavers  
 Speaker of the House Michael Madigan  
 Congressman Danny K Davis  
 Congressman Bobby Rush  
 Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
 State Senator Mattie Hunter  
 State Senator Annazette Collins  
 State Senator Donne Trotter  
 State Representative Monique Davis  
 State Representative, Kevin McCarthy  
 State Representative Derrick Smith  
 State Representative Mary Flowers  
 State Representative Marlow Colvin  
 State Representative Al Riley  
 State Representative Connie Howard  
 Mayor Deyon Dean, Riverdale  
 State Representative and Mayor Andre Ashmore, Matteson  
 Mayor Keevan Grimmett, Dixon  
 Mayor Robert Donaldson, Hazelcrest  
 Mayor Frank Pasquale, Bellwood  
Mayor Gene Williams, Lynwood  
 Mayor Henderson Yarbrough, Maywood  
 Mayor Eric Kellog, Harvey  
 Cook County Commissioner Jerry Butler  
 Alderman Marty Quinn  
 Former Cook County Board President Bobbie Steele  
 Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.  
 Rev. Walter Turner III  
 Bishop Claude Porter  
 Rev. Dr. Lewis Flowers  
 Rev. Leon Miller  
 Rev. George Henderson  
 Apostle Carl White

H) As concisely as possible, please state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

I have successfully managed the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the last 11 years, bringing significant improvements to an antiquated and poorly run system. I have a proven record of accomplishments in ensuring financial accountability, strengthening customer service, bringing 21st century technology to the Office, and improving the efficiency of operations. This court system is the second largest in the United States. Some of my accomplishments are as follows:

## Financial Accountability Accomplishments

### *Increased Revenue while Reducing Expenditures*



### *Other Financial Accountability Accomplishments*

- Introduced credit card payment system for bail bonds—thus reducing jail overcrowding. Collected over \$55 million in bail bonds and fees through credit cards.
- Strengthened past-due collections strategies by creating a Financial Compliance Unit that led to the collection of \$2.036 million in previously uncollected funds owed to County; and led the implementation of a new law permitting collection agencies, then hired collection agencies that collected over \$25 million.
- Led the passing of a law to permit State Income Tax Refund interception for court fees. Collected over \$8 million in fees.
- Implemented various cost-cutting measures.

## Customer Service Accomplishments

- Raised awareness of \$16+ million in unclaimed mortgage foreclosure surplus funds for distressed homeowners. Created online, searchable database of available surplus funds.
- Implemented online Orders of Protection (OOP's) forms, guidelines for completing OOP's, and instructions for obtaining court orders.
- Provide comprehensive information about expungement of criminal records online, at seminars and in public service announcements; instituted an annual weekend full service expungement summit, serving over 14,000 people.
- Created online search engine for parents to find unclaimed child support checks.
- Instituted an easy and convenient global filing of no fee filing items.

## Technological Accomplishments

### Rebuilding the infrastructure

- Linked computers by installing a wide area network.

- Replaced "dumb terminals" with flat-panel monitors and "thin clients," thus bringing the hardware into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Inaugurated internal and external e-mail systems, with periodic upgrades.
- Upgraded servers to Blade and SAN environments.
- Instituted an intranet system for faster employee communication.

#### Saving money

- Consolidated the mainframe system with Cook County for savings of \$1 million.

#### Creating user-friendly Web site and information kiosks

- Instituted a searchable database of 461 fillable court forms.
- Upgraded the electronic docket searches for Chancery, Civil, Domestic Relations, Law, Probate and Traffic cases.
- Installed a system that permits online payment of traffic fines, requesting a court date for court diversion tickets, or requesting traffic safety school.
- Installed information kiosks at Criminal/Felony, Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Divisions for easy case lookup and retrieval in Spanish, Polish, and English.
- Created searchable online index of Declaration of Intentions (Immigration) records.
- Installed a Webinar for the Electronic Filing system to help customers learn the electronic filing system.

#### Improving information sharing with justice agencies

- Implemented automated file transfer of summons data from Sheriff's Office to Clerk's Office.
- Instituted nightly reporting to Secretary of State's office of litigants who failed to pay court-ordered traffic fines.
- Organized and chaired Cook County Integrated Criminal Justice Information System Committee.

#### Increasing internal efficiency

- Eliminated carbon-paper transactions through automation of print jobs.
- Created imaging and document management system in County, Law and Probate Divisions.
- Migrated to distributed reporting in multiple divisions.
- Integrated cashiering system with electronic docket system to improve financial quality controls.

#### Increasing internal efficiency

- Instituted the use of carbonated forms for the frequently used court forms that require multiple copies.
- Installed an imaging and document management system in County, Chancery, Law Probate Divisions, and Civil, with the remaining divisions planned for 2012.
- 
- Installed a new \$6 million integrated cashiering and security system, integrating it with the electronic docket system to improve financial quality controls.

#### Electronic Filing

- Implemented e-filing for commercial litigation section of Law Division.
- Once the Supreme Court provides its approval, electronic filing will be rolled out to other divisions.

The goals most important to me personally:

- Roll out electronic filing to 100% of the civil case filings once the Supreme Court provides permission.
- Help the Chief Judge institute the 21<sup>st</sup> Century concept through "Paperless Courtroom."
- Finalize installation of the imaging and document management system.
- Installing the electronic traffic ticket system in 100% of the police agencies, including the City of Chicago.
- Continuing to raise awareness of expungement guidelines, mortgage foreclosure surplus funds and unclaimed child support funds.
- Restructuring and reorganizing the Clerk's Office to meet budgetary reductions, while ensuring clients are properly served.

D) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

My campaign budget is in process. We have raised about \$150,000 to date.

**J)** How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

There are seven (7) people on my campaign staff to date. There are over 500 volunteers on our list.

### **IVI-IPO 2012 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2**

**1. Will you accept or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors of this office?**

I will accept donations from any member of the public, regardless of affiliation, as long as it is within the campaign finance laws.

**2. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?**

I currently employ the mayor of a suburban municipality. There is no conflict of interest.

**3. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the county**

I will not employ staff who have outside employment or contracts with entities that do business with the County. This would be a violation of the Clerk's Office Code of Ethics.

**4. In what circumstances would you contract for outside professional services and what criteria would you implement for letting contracts? Please comment on any existing abuses and how you would correct them.**

I have, and will continue to contract for professional services related to:

- auditing financial and business records;
- upgrading information systems and technology;
- implementing a professional records management system;
- professional development, such as conflict resolution;
- improving customer service skills;
- researching and analyzing public policy issues; and
- lobbying for new laws, as needed.

All potential contractors are expected to demonstrate a high degree of proficiency and competence in their fields, in addition to a proven track record of delivering services. All contractors are selected in line with the Cook County purchasing guidelines. These contracts are for services over and above the duties/expertise of the employees.

**5. Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Cook County? Why or why not?**

The Cook County Purchasing Ordinance currently does not permit contracting to be limited only to companies located within Cook County. However, in order to promote economic development and employment for Cook

County residence, I would support an ordinance that limits contracting for non-specialized services to companies located within Cook County.

**6. Do you support Patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?**

No, I do not support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees. My philosophy is professionalism over politics; therefore, I have hired and promoted individuals because of their qualifications and not their political patronage connections. Patronage has no place in hiring and promoting public employees.

**7. Do you support Affirmative Action?**

Yes, I support affirmative action. In 2000, I outlined a five-point plan to improve the diversity of the Clerk's Office to reflect the population. I am pleased to report the initiatives listed below have been accomplished routinely to assure the Clerk's Office maintains a diverse workforce during my term.

1. The Clerk's Office will ensure staff with policy-making responsibilities includes highly qualified and competent members of groups who have faced discrimination.
2. To foster a diverse workplace, the Office will train supervisors to identify, mediate, and resolve conflict that may arise over race, ethnicity, gender, religion, physical disability or sexual orientation.
3. The Office will continue to hold diversity and sensitivity training.
4. The Office will encourage employees who are members of groups who have suffered discrimination to participate in job training and educational opportunities.
5. The Office will identify and develop candidates for advancement regardless of race, gender, religion, physical disability or sexual orientation.

**8. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of county employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?**

Yes.

**9. In what ways should the administration of the Clerk's office be improved?**

Please see my answer to question 1H, in which I outline the goals that are most important to me personally. In addition to those goals, I will be implementing two major new operational control techniques: Compstat Meetings (which we will call ClerkStat) to hold management even more accountable and Sorties (Performance Measurement Techniques).

**10. What questions of public policy arise in the administration of this office, and what guidelines do you suggest for seeking answers to such questions?**

The most frequent public policy issues that arise in the Clerk's Office are: 1) the amount, extent and collection of court fees; 2) the privacy and/or availability of court records. I have a proven record of accomplishment in advancing the public interest in these two areas.

1. Court Fees

Since taking Office, I have pursued an aggressive legislative strategy. The major pieces of legislation that I supported and which were enacted by the Illinois General Assembly include:

**Legislative Accomplishments**

<b>Collection Strategy</b>	<b>Statute</b>	<b>Provisions</b>
Late payment penalty in criminal cases	725 ILCS 5/124A-10	For unpaid criminal fines, the Clerk’s Office can charge a late payment of 5% after 30 days, 10% after 60 days and 15% after 90 days.
Use of bail bond money for court costs	725 ILCS 5/110-7	Requires that bail bond deposits should be applied toward child support obligations, attorney fees, and court costs first.
Late payment penalty on civil cases	705 ILCS 105/27.2a	For unpaid civil fees, the Clerk’s Office can charge a late payment of 5% after 30 days 10% after 60 days and 15% after 90 days.
Intercept Illinois tax refunds for unpaid fees	705 ILCS 105/27.2b	Permits the Illinois State Comptroller to intercept income tax funds to satisfy unpaid court fees and costs.
Use of third party fund facilitators	705 ILCS 105/27.2b	Permits the Clerk’s Office to enter into agreement with 3 <sup>rd</sup> party fund facilitators, service providers, and/or fund guarantors.

2. Privacy and Availability of Court Records

I have been instrumental in the successful introduction and passage of several key pieces of legislation that have had a dramatic effect on public policy.

- Juvenile Expungement (P.A. 93-0912) – Under this law, the judiciary must notify an individual that he or she may have the right to have their case expunged and will be provided an informational expungement package by the Clerk of the Circuit Court.
- Sealed Adult Records (P.A. 93-0211) – Under this law, the chief judge of a circuit court can seal certain adult and juvenile records after three years for select misdemeanor and municipal ordinance offenses.

I will continue to pursue initiatives that help former offenders clear their records and help them re-enter the work force.

**12. In your opinion, are there administrative duties that should be added to this office in the interest of efficiency and effective functioning of the courts? Are there duties presently performed that might be more reasonably performed by another agency?**

I would not recommend any additions or subtractions to the functions of the Clerk’s Office at this time

**13. How would you work with other agencies to decrease the backlog of court cases?**

The Clerk’s Office’s role is primarily ministerial. We do not have a role in setting policy on what types of cases should or should not be filed in the Circuit Court. At present, we work with other agencies in devising strategies for court diversions, mediation or other non-trial mechanisms for seeking justice. I will continue this effort.

The Clerk’s Office can help reduce the backlog by eliminating inefficient and ineffective business processes. For instance, the lack of integrated criminal information systems has helped create a backlog in Central Bond Court.

Judges need to wait for criminal history records to arrive from law enforcement agencies before they issue a bond, or remand a defendant to custody. The Clerk's Office can work with all other criminal justice agencies to speed up the processing and retrieval of criminal history information. As chairman of the Cook County Integrated Criminal Justice Information Systems Committee, I have organized all major criminal justice agencies in the County to reduce the processing time for sharing criminal case information. I will continue this effort will go far to reduce the backlog of criminal cases.

I will work with the Chief Judge to create a "Paperless Courtroom," thus providing all case files electronically from either the electronic filing system or the imaging and document management system. This will ensure cases are not continued due to the lack of the case file.

**14. What reforms will you implement to prevent the theft, misfiling and disappearance of court case files from the Clerk's office?**

The Clerk's Office has been implementing a document imaging system. This initiative enables the Clerk's Office to image every document that is filed over the counter. The imaged document is inserted into the electronic docket to create a seamless web of complete information about a court case. With this system, the judiciary has access to digital images of court documents. This is useful in cases where a hard copy file has been stolen, misfiled or misplaced. The implementation of this initiative will continue through 2012.

Also, the Clerk's Office has introduced electronic filing for commercial litigation. This has enabled attorneys to file all court papers electronically with the Court in a timely, secure and efficient manner. The electronic records can be printed and maintained in a court file, or maintained in a computer file, in service to the judiciary. In 2012, the Clerk's Office will continue to expand the electronic filing initiative to other divisions.

When I first took Office, one of my first innovations was to hire a records management professional to oversee the improvement of record keeping practices in the Clerk's Office. The newly created Records Management Bureau holds regular meetings with all File Room managers in all divisions to review file maintenance procedures, proper filing techniques, and retrieval practices. These meetings have helped to create a sense of pride and ownership in work product among File Room staff. It has led to a reduction in the number of misfiled, or misplaced court case files.

In 2002, I implemented a new customer ID procedure to help prevent theft of court files. All customers are now required to leave an ID with Clerk's Office personnel upon receiving a file for review. The ID is returned to them after they return the file. So far, this system has helped to prevent any significant incidence of theft of files. In addition, I have implemented a uniform internal investigation system for unreturned files and unclaimed identification cards. This file control system assists in the preservation of the integrity of the court records.

Finally, to help prevent theft of files, we have and will continue to prosecute individuals who are found to have stolen a court file. This will serve as a deterrent. Customers are notified that it is a Class 4 felony to steal a court file. We will continue this strict enforcement.

**15. How would you improve public access to information?**

I have implemented an aggressive community outreach and public information program for the Clerk's Office.

- About \$16 million in mortgage foreclosure surplus funds sits in an interest-bearing account maintained by the Clerk's Office. Working with other agencies, the Clerk's Office created a Mortgage Foreclosure Surplus Fund Task Force's to raise awareness among former property owners that they may be entitled to surplus funds from the sale of their foreclosed property. They created a searchable database of foreclosed properties, which is available online at [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.com](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.com).

- Since 2005, the Clerk's Office has hosted an annual County-wide Expungement Summit to help eligible individuals clear their criminal records. More than 8,000 people have participated in the Summits. The Expungement summits have proven successful and have lead to community-based expungment seminars. In 2011, the Clerk's Office hosted seminars at the Center on Halsted on Chicago's north side, as well as churches in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago and other locales.
- As a service to the community, I have updated, published, and distributed to community outlets a variety of brochures pertinent to the Clerk's Office, designed to inform the public of available services and justice issues, including:
  - A Descriptive Guide to the Clerk's Office
  - Domestic Violence Guidelines for Help
  - How About Child Support
  - A Descriptive Guide to the Juvenile Justice Division and Archives Department.
- Since 2004, the Clerk's Office has hosted a half-hour call-in TV show over CAN-TV on specific topics related to the administration of the Office. Topics covered have included how to apply for an expungement, complete an order of protection and housing court.
- I will continue to urge the Illinois Supreme Court to permit the Clerks of Court of Illinois to show electronic images on the Internet. In order for this to occur, I will urge the Illinois Supreme Court to create a privacy policy that requires court filings to exclude private information -- e.g., social security numbers, driver's license numbers, birth dates -- to prevent identity theft through court documents shown on the internet.

I will continue these efforts in my next term in office.

**16. What measures would you use to collect filing fees, fines and repayment of NSF checks given to the clerk's office?**

In 2001, I created a Fines and Fees Task Force within the Clerk's Office, whose sole purpose was to improve the collection of unpaid court-levied fines, fees, costs and penalties, including NSF checks. The Task Force worked with the Office of the State's Attorney and the Recorder of Deeds to collect payments due to the Clerk's Office. By 2003, the efforts of the Task Force began to bear fruit. The following items identify some of the accomplishments to date by the Unit:

- Developed a series of NSF letters to attorneys and defendants advising them of unpaid fines and fees due to the Clerk's Office.
- Created a uniform fee, fine, and cost order form, which was approved by the Office of the Chief Judge for use in criminal cases.
- Developed a notification process for defendant regarding statutory penalties, including the filing of liens against property, for failure to pay delinquent fees, fines, and costs due to the Office.
- Developed a referral process for delinquent fines and fees for the State's Attorney's Office to prosecute after a specific number of collection attempts have elapsed without settlement.
- Reduced counterfeit currency exposure through the implementation of state-of-the-art automated currency counters.
- Identifies certain pleadings within the Domestic Relations Division that were not being assessed a fee, as required by statute. Letters were issued to attorneys of record and/or self-represented (pro se) litigants to compel the payment of fees owed. This initiative resulted in the collection of more than 50% of the total fees sought.
- Mailed hundreds of postcards to defendants who owed uncollected fines, fees, costs and penalties.
- Notified the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Committee for any attorneys with NSF checks.

- Programmed the cash register system to not accept checks from attorneys who had an NSF check outstanding.

Beginning in June 2005, all citizens were able to pay cash bail via credit card. This provision helped with collections. We will continue these measures.

**17. Should this office be elected or appointed? If appointed, by whom?**

*Elected.* This will continue to ensure the independence of court clerks and the neutrality of the Clerk's Office in the judicial system. The State Court is the court of first impressions, where the case is first heard. It is important that the record is properly maintained and preserved to ensure proper justice. This Office should not be accountable to anyone but the people. There are too many ways a party to a case could be disadvantaged if records were unfairly handled.

**18. Should the Clerk report to the County Board or to the Chief Judge?**

The Clerk is an independent, elected official and should remain so. The Clerk's Office works closely with the County Board to secure funding and resources. In addition, as a non-judicial office of the judicial branch of government, the Clerk's Office works closely with the Chief Judge to administer the court system. I will continue to maintain the independence of the Clerk's Office while working closely with the County Board and the Chief Judge.

By remaining independent, the Clerk's Office can maintain the public's trust and help keep the Office free from corruption, such as the corruption uncovered during Operation Greylord in the 1980s. Ninety-two people were indicted, including 17 judges, 48 lawyers, ten deputy sheriffs, eight policemen, eight court officials, and a member of the Illinois Legislature. The very first person to be convicted in Operation Greylord was a Deputy Traffic Court Clerk. He was found guilty on 4 counts of accepting bribes to be passed on to Cook County judges as payment for fixing tickets.

By remaining independent, the Clerk's Office can control the process of assigning clerks to courtrooms and controlling the integrity of the court records. I have followed a policy of rotating court clerks in and out of specific courtrooms. This helps individual clerks maintain their independence from the judiciary and to concentrate on the mission of the Clerk's Office: to maintain and keep accurate and complete court records. Furthermore, as a matter of sound internal control, the judiciary should not be responsible for making orders and controlling the documents. The judiciary would be able to change the document at will if they had responsibility for maintaining court records.

Also, the Clerk's Office should maintain its independence from the County Board. In the Circuit Court, each court case represents an individual. Politics would control their destinies if the Clerk's Office reported to the County Board.

**19. What plans do you have to implement an "E-Filing" system in all divisions?**

E-filing has been successfully introduced to the Law Division for commercial litigation cases. In April 2011, after the Clerk's Office had obtained approval from the Chief Judge and made a demonstration to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, and was prepared to commence implementing E-filing for all civil case type divisions, the Supreme Court suspended E-filing in the State of Illinois for all Clerk's Offices. The Clerk's Office will restart its implementation process as soon as the Illinois Supreme Court completes its analysis for the State of Illinois courts and grants the Clerk's Office permission to move forward. The Clerk's Office E-filing project is under the control of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court controls the court systems so they can ensure equal justice for all citizens and that there are not disparities. The E-Filing Policy issued by the Supreme Court requires express approval by the Supreme Court before any court system can implement electronic filing.

**20. What safeguards would you implement to prohibit employees from doing political work on county time?**

The Clerk's Office has implemented an online system for reporting waste, fraud and abuse, including abuse of county time. (See <http://oig.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/About.aspx>). All citizens are eligible to file complaints

if there is evidence of fraud, waste, mismanagement, abuse, sexual harassment, harassment, theft, workplace violence or any other misconduct by employees of the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, or if there is evidence of wrongdoing in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court itself.

In addition, the Clerk's Office has established a HOTLINE directly to the Office of the Inspector General. All HOTLINE calls will come in directly to the Inspector General. All Online Complaints will be handled directly by the Inspector General. The Inspector General can be reached directly at 312-603-0464.

During employee orientation sessions, the Clerk's Office clearly states that no political activity can occur on County time or property. This is included in the Employee Manual, which all employees receive. Employees are disciplined for violations of this policy. In addition, I issue periodic reminders to employees concerning the policy of no political work on county time. This is strictly monitored.

**21. Will you ask or have others ask current county employees to work on your campaign?**

I will allow any member of the public, regardless of affiliation or employment status, to volunteer to work on my campaign as long as it is within election laws and the code of ethics. It is against the code of ethics for me to ask an employee to work on my campaign. I do not ask or have others ask this of employees. All work is strictly voluntary. I have informed all of my employees they are to report to me anyone who pressures them to work on any campaign.