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## OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

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### **Clerk Dorothy Brown Bids Farewell to Japanese Research Intern**

On May 21, the Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, bade farewell to Ken Sasaki, a Japanese native who served as a research intern in the Clerk's Office for ten months.

"It has been a pleasure working with Ken who came to our office through a partnership with the Japanese Supreme Court," said Clerk Brown. "This has been an educational and valuable experience for both parties."

Selected by the Supreme Court of Japan, Ken Sasaki is a senior staff member of the Public Information Division, General Secretariat of the Japanese Supreme Court. He conducted his study under the Overseas Training and Research Program for Japanese judges and court staff. He chose to study the Circuit Court of Cook County because it is one of the largest consolidated and most efficient court systems in the world.

As a research intern, Ken studied the operations of the Clerk's Office and the efficiency of court procedures as they relate to information technology. Additionally, he observed civil and criminal trials by jury in the circuit, appellate and federal courts.

"It was very exciting to observe the jury trials because we do not have the trial by jury system in Japan," said Ken Sasaki.

During his study, Sasaki noticed the similarity between the Clerk's Office and the Japanese court systems in that both courts work hard to maintain efficient record keeping. He explained that the main difference between the two systems is that the Clerk's Office MIS Division maintains electronic case management systems, while the Japanese Supreme Court's information technology services are outsourced.

Ken admits that, through his study here, he has realized that the Japanese Supreme Court system should consider developing and maintaining records electronically with the assistance of an internal MIS division. Moreover, he says that court employees need training so they can manage electronic case files in Japan.

"I am very thankful to Clerk Brown and all of her staff for allowing me to do research in the Clerk's Office and for everyone's kindness," said Ken Sasaki.

Sasaki will return to Japan on June 17. He says that he will propose that the Japanese Supreme Court create summons, develop jury administration and establish a program against domestic violence.

"We will truly miss Ken in the office, but I look forward to continuing to maintain a beneficial relationship between my office and the Supreme Court of Japan," said Clerk Brown.

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