



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:
Jalyne Strong (312) 603-5696
jrstrong@cookcountycourt.com

Dorothy Brown Honors the Legacy of Past Clerks of the Circuit Court

CHICAGO (August 5, 2005) - The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, honored the four past Clerks of the Circuit Court who have held office since the Circuit Courts of Cook County were unified in 1964, during a photo unveiling ceremony on July 28 in the Richard J. Daley Center.

“It was an honor to celebrate the four former Clerks of the Circuit Court who successfully helped shape this organization into a model of excellence in record keeping,” said Clerk Brown.

Prior to 1964, there were more than 200 separate courts in Cook County that heard various types of cases. On January 1, 1964, the courts were unified into the Circuit Court and a single chief judge and one elected clerk of court were mandated to oversee it.

The four past Clerks who were honored are: Joseph McDonough (1964-1968) who was acknowledged for unifying numerous Clerk’s Offices into the single, efficient operation of the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court; Matthew Danaher (1968-1974) who was noted for mechanizing record keeping; Morgan Finley (1974-1988) who reorganized the office setting with the goal of streamlining operations and improving service; and Aurelia Pucinski (1988-2000) who was one of the first women to hold a county-wide office when she was elected. She also worked to reduce domestic violence through a number of procedures and programs.

During the ceremony, the children of the past Clerks (with the exception of former Clerk Finley, who was present) shared remarks about their fathers’ lives and careers prior to the unveiling of the respective Clerk’s photo. Morgan Finley expressed appreciation for having his career honored at this auspicious occasion. One staff member who worked under Aurelia Pucinski’s administration spoke on her behalf.

“Through innovation and hard work, we continue to expand and strengthen the quality of programs and services, while ensuring that public resources are used effectively and efficiently,” said Clerk Brown as she closed the ceremony.

Each of the Clerks’ photos will be permanently displayed in the Clerk’s Executive Office in the Richard J. Daley Center, Room 1001.

###



The Honorable Dorothy Brown (center), Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, is flanked by the photos of the four past Clerks of the Circuit Court since 1964, following an unveiling ceremony. Pictured (left to right) are: Kelly Smeltzer, Chief Deputy Clerk of Domestic Relations with Aurelia Pucinski's picture; Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Finley with his photo; Matthew Danaher, Jr., Ellen Tully and Mary Pat Follett, the children of former Clerk Matthew Danaher with his picture; and Mr. and Mrs. John McDonough, son and daughter-in-law of former Clerk Joseph McDonough with his photo.