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CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



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OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION
November 21, 2008

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**Clerk Dorothy Brown Partners with Lisa Madigan, the Polish American Congress,
and ZAM's Hope Community Resource to Present a Second
"Mortgage Foreclosure Education Summit," Saturday, Nov. 22**

Vital Information will be Distributed, Volunteer Attorneys will Offer Free Legal Advice

CHICAGO – Responding to the demand for information and practical advice on how to deal with the nation's rising rate of mortgage foreclosures and its credit crisis, a second **"Mortgage Foreclosure Education Summit,"** will be presented by Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, along with Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Frank Spula, President of the Polish American Congress, and ZAM's Hope Community Resource on **Saturday, November 22, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Polish National Alliance, 6100 N. Cicero Chicago. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.**

"Foreclosures are filed in the Chancery Division of the Clerk's Office, therefore my office is experiencing the brunt of this crisis firsthand," said Clerk Brown. "Foreclosure rates have almost tripled in Cook County in the last four years. Our records show that in 2004, there were 15,618 mortgage foreclosures filed. As of October 2008, there have been 36,988 mortgage foreclosures filed in Cook County, and the projection is that there will be 44,386 mortgage foreclosures filed by year's end.

"Something needed to be done to help the growing number of individuals who are being affected by the harsh economic times that our nation is enduring," said Clerk Brown.

Clerk Brown designed the summit to provide the public with access to critical information for coping with the foreclosure and credit crises. There will be specific informational sessions on how to handle the foreclosure process, knowing your legal rights, lending options, reverse mortgages for seniors, loan modifications, how to obtain a mortgage surplus, bankruptcy and identity theft. There will also be a session about how to get one's property taxes reduced and another on credit counseling.

Clerk Brown has secured the services of volunteer attorneys to review foreclosure cases and provide legal advice to participants on site.

An array of government, financial, legal and service agencies will be present to discuss pertinent issues and distribute practical information to those who attend the summit. The participating governmental agencies include: Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, the Illinois Attorney General, the Cook County Board of Review, the Cook County Recorder of Deeds and the Illinois

Treasurer's Office.

The financial, legal and service agencies that will be present include: PNA Bank, Harris Bank, 1st Reverse Financial Services, ShoreBank, Identity Theft Shield, Amicus Poloniae Free Legal Clinic, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago, Rogers Park Community Development Corporation and Northwest Side Housing Center.

“It is a fact that in Cook County, one out of every 362 homes is in foreclosure. This is an alarming statistic,” said Clerk Brown. “As elected officials, neighborhood banks and organizations, and community service groups, we must do whatever we can to throw out lifelines to those individuals drowning in debt and despair, before they are completely overtaken.”

The Mortgage Foreclosure Education Summit is free and open to the public. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and informational sessions start at 9:00 a.m. For more information, call 312-603-5200.

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