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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Clerk of the Circuit Court, the State's Attorney, the Public Defender and Other Agencies to Host a Full Service, Community-Based, Adult and Juvenile Expungement Summit at Roberto Clemente Community Academy

Chicago (May 6, 2008) - The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County; the Honorable Richard Devine, State's Attorney of Cook County; the Cook County Public Defender, and an array of governmental, legal, community and religious organizations and agencies, will sponsor an Adult and Juvenile Expungement Summit at Roberto Clemente Community Academy, 1147 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL, on Saturday, June 7, 2008; registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

This full-service, community-based Expungement Summit has been extremely successful for the last three years, attracting 2,500 to 3,000 people per year who sought to improve their ability to obtain employment by having expungeable offenses removed from their criminal histories. Previous summits were held at Austin High School, DuSable High School, and Chicago Vocational Career Academy.

At the summit, volunteer attorneys assist participants with the preparation of applications for the filing of petitions that qualify for expungement and sealing. The State's Attorney, Chicago Police Department and Illinois State Police holds information sessions on their expungement petition review process. Sessions will be offered on Criminal and Financial Identity Theft presented by the State Appellate Defender (criminal) and the Illinois Attorney General (financial). **Additionally, a new feature this year will be sessions on citizenship presented by Illinois Coalition for Immigration and Refugee Rights; Centro Sin Fronteras; and Rainbow PUSH Latino Chapter.**

Individuals who do not qualify for expungement may attend a panel discussion conducted by the Illinois Prisoner Review Board to learn about Certificates of Good Conduct and Relief from Disabilities, as well as how to prepare letters for clemency and/or pardons from the governor.

Other agencies will provide information on employment, job training, health care, housing, voter registration and other services for ex-offenders. The Illinois Department of Employment Security will hold an information session on job placement for ex-offenders.

To have a petition filed on site, the petitioner must bring a rap sheet (criminal history) and filing fees, which may include \$60 for the Clerk's Office, \$60 for the Illinois State Police, \$9 per certified disposition (adult cases) or \$4 per certified disposition (juvenile cases). If the case is a

Class 4 Felony drug case, the petitioner will have to provide the results of a drug test taken within the past 30 days.

“This is an opportunity for individuals to expunge their court records; a second chance for them to be law-abiding, productive members of society,” said Clerk Brown. “We are attempting to remove as many impediments as possible for people who are attempting to better themselves and their quality of life.”

The Expungement Summit is being sponsored by: the Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County; Honorable Richard Devine, State’s Attorney of Cook County; Cook County Public Defender; Baptist Ministers Conference of Chicago; Cabrini Green Legal Aid; CAPS; Chicago Police Department; Chicago Public Schools; Cook County Bar Association; Illinois Department of Employment Security; Illinois State Appellate Defender; Illinois State Police; NAACP; Pastors United for Change; Prisoner Review Board; Safer Foundation; and Westside Ministers Coalition.