



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

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## **Clerk Dorothy Brown announces major expansion of E-Filing in Law Division and throughout the Clerk's Office**

### **Illinois Supreme Court gives E-Filing expansion the Green light to all civil case types in the Clerk's Office**

(Chicago) Today, in the company of over a dozen state and local bar association presidents, the Honorable Dorothy Brown, announced that the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court Cook County will soon expand its Electronic Filing (E-Filing) pilot to all civil case types in the Law Division, except for condemnation cases, making Cook County the largest court system in the world to initiate this "Green Court" technology. The Illinois Supreme Court has given Clerk Brown the approval to expand E-Filing to all civil case types in the Clerk's Office. This approval is a major step towards making Cook County a virtual court system, at *no cost* to the county.

"I am excited about the expansion of E-Filing in the Law Division and the Illinois Supreme Court's approval for the other civil case types," said Clerk Brown. "This helps establish Cook County as the standard blueprint for other court systems to follow in implementing this cutting edge technology," said Clerk Brown.

"E-Filing will streamline the process for filing court documents, basically allowing filers to **move from in line at the Clerk's Office to online with the Clerk's Office**. The complete implementation of E-Filing in the Law Division will bring us another step closer to my vision of a fully integrated, electronic court system," said Clerk Brown.

Currently, the E-Filing pilot in the Law Division has over 7,000 registered users. "We expect the number of registered users to rise dramatically as E-Filing is expanded in the Law Division and beyond," said Clerk Brown. E-Filing users will decrease their visits to the courthouse and increase their availability to their clients. "E-Filing users will gain valuable time that was previously spent traveling to, and from the courthouse," said Clerk Brown.

"By having an easy to use E-Filing "Webinar," available 24 hours a day on the Clerk's Office Website, at [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org), our goal is to remove any apprehension about using the E-Filing system for attorneys, as well as self-represented (pro se), litigants," Clerk Brown said. "Interactive step-by-step instructions guide users completely through the E-Filing process, and demonstrate how this system is both easy and efficient."

E-Filing is the automated online process of creating a court file, paying associated filing fees and electronically file-stamping and storing court documents. The process increases efficiency for attorneys, self-represented litigants, judges, and the Clerk's Office. E-Filing also increases the proficiency of the Clerk's Office in accepting court documents and storing them, thus a cost savings to taxpayers.

After being rolled out in the Individual Commercial Calendar Section of the Law Division in 2009, the ability to motion spindle cases was added in 2010, making E-Filing a full service option for filers in that section.

For more information on the E-Filing pilot visit the Clerk's Office website at [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org).

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