



NEWS RELEASE

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Clerk Dorothy Brown Participates In NACo Smart Justice Symposium

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County was a panelist who provided insight on the Cook County Expungement Summit and the value of expungement as a way for ex-offenders to overcome employment barriers at the National Association of Counties' (NACo), workshop. The Workshop was part of the 2013 National Association of Counties' (NACo) Smart Justice Symposium. Participants explored justice and public safety priorities such as juvenile justice reform, workforce development, jail population management and related jail healthcare issues. The Symposium was held Jan. 31-Feb. 1 in Los Angeles County, Calif.

Hosted by Los Angeles County, Clerk Dorothy Brown also discussed these critical priorities with justice and public safety experts from across the country and considered how county officials can best shape federal policies and funding levels to ensure that services for communities are efficient and effective.

Seven sessions were held over the two days addressing:

- the latest innovations and successes on juvenile justice reform
- pretrial justice programs and how they can improve public safety and help counties better manage jail populations
- workforce development plan and strategies to curb recidivism
- the new national health care law and how it relates to county jail populations;
- strategies to curb child sex trafficking, and
- The relationship between counties and their state in the management of jail populations.

The Smart Justice Symposium is part of NACo President Chris Rodgers' presidential Smart Justice initiative which aims to build knowledge and capacity for successful justice policies and practices among the nation's counties. It also provides a closer examination of the need for intergovernmental collaboration and public private partnerships in an effort to create safer communities and spend taxpayer money more effectively.

Clerk Dorothy Brown, said, the NACo Smart Justice Symposium was a great opportunity to hear directly from experts on many of the critical justice and public safety issues affecting counties across

the country and said the critical matters explored at the meeting will improve and enhance public safety in states and local communities.

“The time to act is now. Providing ex-offenders with a second chance is the most responsible thing we can do as elected officials. We are confronting head-on, the economics and the human side of the issue. As our budgets dwindle, our jail cells rise making them overcrowded which keeps our cost up. On the human side, helping an individual directly inputs their lives and gives them an opportunity for a second chance, said Clerk Brown.

For more information on the symposium or the Smart Justice initiative, visit the NACo website at www.naco.org or contact Jim Philipps at 202.942.4220 or jphilipps@naco.org.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org



WOMEN OF NACo WEAR RED FOR WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH

CHICAGO – During the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 2013 Smart Justice Symposium in Los Angeles, Clerk Dorothy Brown and the Women of NACo (WON) Justice and Public safety Committee, wore red for women's health in support of the of the National Heart Association's Wear Red Day.