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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CLERK BROWN AND CHIEF JUDGE EVANS
MOVE FORWARD WITH eFILING FOR ALL CIVIL CASE TYPES
E-Filing commenced for all Law Division case types, effective Monday, April 1, 2013**

(CHICAGO, April 3, 2013) With high enthusiasm, the Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, announced that she and the Honorable Chief Judge Timothy Evans have received approval from the Illinois Supreme Court to move forward with the implementation of an Electronic Filing System for all civil case types in the Circuit Court of Cook County. She is even further pleased to announce that, effective this past Monday, April 1, 2013, citizens were given access to electronically file cases for all Law Division case types, except condemnations. The Clerk's Office plans to have eFiling implemented for all civil case types by August 2013.

E-Filing is the automated online process where court users can create and submit a court filing, pay the associated filing fees, and then receive the file stamped document electronically. Court filings can even be electronically served by the eFiling system. The process increases efficiency for attorneys, and self-represented litigants. E-Filing also streamlines the process of the Clerk's Office in accepting, data entering and storing court documents, resulting in cost savings to taxpayers. Once accepted, eFiled documents are posted directly to the electronic docket, and the images appear on the public access terminals of the Clerk's Office.

"We have worked tirelessly to make this valuable piece of technology a reality in Cook County. For me and my team, it is exciting to finally be able to go live with eFiling. My hope is that all of the attorneys and pro se filers will take advantage of the cost savings and efficiencies offered by this system," said Clerk Brown.

In 2009, eFiling was implemented as a pilot project in the Individual Commercial Calendar Section of the Law Division. In January of 2013, the application for expansion was submitted by the Chief Judge Evans and Clerk Brown for Electronic Filing in civil proceedings in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Along with the application, Chief Judge Evans and Clerk Brown submitted a draft General Administrative Order, a proposed e-Filing implementation schedule,

and letters from bar associations recommending that the Illinois Supreme Court approve the application for the court's eFiling system.

"I am pleased to have worked collaboratively with Clerk Brown, in conjunction with the progressive view on e-business advanced by Chief Justice Kilbride, in fashioning an eFiling system that will expand the convenience offered to those seeking court services. The Circuit Court of Cook County looks forward to continuing to work with Clerk Brown on developing innovative technology to create new and better ways to assist court users," said Chief Judge Evans.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court has an aggressive schedule for expanding eFiling to all civil case types and hopes to complete this process by the end of August. The schedule is as follows: eFiling for the remainder of the Law Division case types, except condemnations, commenced Monday, April 1, 2013; Chancery Division, April 22, 2013; Civil Division, May 20, 2013; Domestic Relations/Child Support Divisions, June 17, 2013; Probate Division, excluding Wills, July 15, 2013; and County Division, August 12, 2013. There is a convenience fee of only \$2.95 to file online. A great cost savings when compared to the cost to travel to and from the court house and the time spent in line. Now court users can be online, instead of in line.

"I want to thank Chief Judge Evans for all his support during this process and Chief Justice Kilbride for giving us the go ahead to continue to transform the Circuit Court of Cook County into a model court system on the cutting edge of court technology," said Clerk Brown.

With the implementation of the eFiling expansion, the Clerk Brown's completed technology initiatives continue to grow, and include: ePlea online payment of traffic tickets; eTickets; Image and Document Management System (IDMS), which includes the imaging of all filings and orders; Standard File Room Operating Procedures (SFROP), which includes bar-code scanning of paper files to track their location; a computerized integrated cashiering system, which posts to the general ledger in near real time; and the Court Clerk Connect free mobile app, available from iTunes and Google Play stores.

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