



NEWS RELEASE

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Hon. Dorothy Brown (center), Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, outlines the steps to producing a successful Expungement Summit, while Commissioner Katie Cashion (right) (Guilford County, NC), Chair of the NACo Justice & Public Safety Steering Committee, looks on.

Clerk Dorothy Brown explores critical justice, public safety issues at NACo symposium

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, recently participated in the National Association of

Counties (NACo) Justice and Public Safety Symposium in Fulton County, Ga. to explore local, state and federal homeland security and public safety legislative and policy priorities.

Clerk Brown is a member of NACo's Public Safety Steering Committee, which is responsible to develop NACo policies pertaining to criminal justice and public safety systems, including justice planning, law enforcement, courts, corrections, homeland security, community crime prevention, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, emergency management, fire prevention and control and civil disturbances.

The annual gathering, hosted by Fulton County, Ga. and NACo, was held Jan. 23-24 in Atlanta. It provides members of NACo's Justice and (JPS) and other NACo leadership an opportunity to network with fellow county officials and hear directly from national experts.

Clerk Brown was the featured speaker for the January 23rd session, titled "Addressing Recidivism: Expunging, Sealing and Other Remedies for Criminal Records." Her presentation focused on providing other counties with guidelines on how to host successful Expungement Summits in their jurisdictions.

Several NACo members attended Clerk Brown's 2013 Expungement Summit, held in a suburb of Chicago last June. The event offered Expungement, sealing and other critical services that assist people with criminal records to become productive members of their communities. Many county officials expressed keen interest in replicating the event. At the NACo symposium, Clerk Brown presented "An Expungement Summit Toolkit Outline: Helping Counties to Bring Second Chance Opportunities."

"The symposium was a great opportunity to hear directly from national experts and share information among county officials on several critical justice and public safety issues," Clerk Brown said. "The meeting was a very useful exercise for the Justice and Public Safety Committee to gain further insight into the challenges counties are facing and the possible solutions to help keep communities safe."

Several other sessions were held over the two days, including: The Future of Federal Homeland Security Funding; Technology - An Enabler for Public Safety; National Standards for Youth Charged with Status Offenses - Local, State and Federal Policy Impacts; Coordinating a Systems Approach to Behavioral Health and Justice; Managing Risk and Targeting Costs and Flood Insurance Reform - Premium Rates, Maps, Affordability and Risk Reduction.

Also, county leaders heard updates from the U.S. Department of Justice and White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Special guest speakers included Robert Samaan, director, National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); Michael Gillenwater, director, Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Mary Lou Leary, principal deputy assistant attorney general, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and Michael Botticelli, deputy director, National Drug Control Policy, The White House.

The full [meeting agenda](#) is available on the NACo website.

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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 assists America's 3,069 counties in pursuing excellence in public service to produce healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties. NACo promotes sound public policies, fosters county solutions and innovation, promotes intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. More information at: www.naco.org.