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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Clerk Dorothy Brown and the GLBT Employees Committee
Honor Equality Illinois During Pride Celebration**

CHICAGO (June 16, 2005) - The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and the Clerk's Office Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Employees Committee will host the annual GLBT Pride Celebration and Award Ceremony on Thursday, June 23, at 3 p.m. in Room CL 115 of the Daley Center, 50 W. Washington.

Equality Illinois, an organization founded in 1992 to defend the civil rights of Illinois' GLBT residents, will receive an award for its pioneering work in advancing human rights in Illinois. Equality Illinois Board President Michael McHale is scheduled to accept the award on behalf of the organization.

"It is an honor to host this celebratory event and to acknowledge the work of such a powerful advocate organization in the GLBT community," said Clerk Brown.

In January 2005, the State of Illinois became the 14th state to ban discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on sexual orientation. Senate Bill 3186 would not have passed without the successful, decade-long campaign by Equality Illinois to secure basic rights for the residents of Illinois.

The Honorable Theodore M. Swain, Retired Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, will serve as master of ceremonies for the pride celebration. Judge Swain was assigned to the Criminal Division from 1976 to 1983. He also served as defense counsel for the Reverend Greg Dell in his 1999 church trial, in which Dell was charged with the "offense" of performing a Holy Union service for a gay couple in his congregation.

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