



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 5, 2010

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**Clerk Brown Enhances the Clerk's Office's E-Filing Pilot to Full Service with the Addition of Motion Spindling**  
*Fewer trips to the courthouse and increased E-Filing usage expected*

(Chicago) The Honorable Dorothy Brown announced today that the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court Cook County has enhanced its Electronic Filing (E-Filing) service in the Commercial Litigation Section of the Law Division, by adding a motion spindling feature that enables filers to receive their court dates electronically. Motion spindling will be available online Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding court holidays. The added motion spindling feature promises to draw more users to E-Filing as it eliminates the need for attorneys and litigants to come to court to receive a court date at the division's motion spindling counter. Clerk Brown also emphasized that the E-Filing system with motion spindling was developed at **"no cost"** to taxpayers.

"The motion spindling option in E-Filing completes the service, offering users everything from start to finish in filing a case," said Clerk Brown. "With the ability to receive a court date electronically, attorneys and litigants will only have to come to court when it is time to try their cases. E-Filing with motion spindling is a major convenience." Said Clerk Brown. "As motion practice is a huge percentage of case activity," Clerk Brown added, "we expect that this new added feature will increase the overall usage of E-Filing."

The availability of motion spindling from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. is expected to help decrease the number of visits to the Clerk's office to obtain a court date. "Attorneys and pro se litigants will immediately experience the big benefit of E-Filing now that the service includes the option to spindle a motion conveniently from a computer," said Clerk Brown.

Clerk Brown launched the E-Filing service for attorneys and pro se litigants in May 2009 as a pilot program in the Commercial Litigation Section of the Law Division. Currently the Clerk's Office E-Filing service has attracted more than 5,500 registered users.

To familiarize more attorneys with E-Filing and its features, Clerk Brown hosts an ongoing E-Filing online training webinar on the Clerk's Office's web site: [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org).

Within the E-Filing online service, the motion spindling feature is presented as a menu item that opens to a screen offering the options to “File Motion and Spindle Motion.” If the user desires a motion date, he or she may search a calendar within the dialog box and select the date. The user will then click a “search” button for a valid date and receive three options on the judge’s calendar. The user clicks one of the dates and then click’s “Request Spindled Date” button. A receipt indicating the requested spindle date, time and sequence on the motion call is returned for printing and saving.

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 and court clerks. E-Filing also increases the proficiency of the Clerk’s Office in accepting court documents and storing them, thus a cost savings to taxpayers.

“E-Filing streamlined 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,**” said Clerk Brown.

The enhanced E-Filing system sets the stage for the expansion of E-Filing into other areas of the Law Division and eventually into all divisions of the Clerk’s Office. “The pilot program in the Commercial Litigation area of the Law Division is a significant success and is a good foundation for the smooth and efficient rollout of E-Filing onto the other areas of law,” noted Clerk Brown.

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## **Cook County Court Clerk Dorothy Brown's E-Filing Roll-Out Strategy**

**January 8, 2009**, the Clerk's Office hosts an introduction to the E-Filing system meeting for the legal community, judiciary, other circuit court clerks, and the legal media, during which an E-Filing Advisory/ Leadership Committee is formed. The committee is comprised of representatives of several stakeholder groups, including attorneys, elected officials, legal services organizations, members of the judiciary, and the legal media.

**January 29, 2009**, the Clerk's Office hosts the first meeting of the E-Filing Advisory/Leadership Committee, demonstrates the system to the Committee in more detail and requests that the Committee members make suggestions for system improvements.

**February 18, 2009**, the Clerk's Office holds a system demonstration for the E-Filing Advisory/Leadership Committee.

**February 25, 2009**, the Clerk's Office holds an E-Filing Presentation and Demonstration for the Presidents and Officers of Bar Associations and the E-Filing Advisory/Leadership Committee, approximately 250 invited guests attend.

**March 16, 2009**, an E-Filing demonstration is presented to Cook County Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans and Cook County Circuit Court Judiciary.

**March 23, 2009**, more than 1,200 attorneys, legal assistants and other interested persons attend the Premiere E-Filing Presentation and Demonstration held at the Thompson Center and the First United Methodist Church in downtown Chicago. The E-Filing Advisory/Leadership Committee also attends this meeting.

**March 31 – May 1, 2009**, the Clerk's Office hosts daily E-Filing training classes for attorneys, paralegals and other interested persons. Attorneys who attend the electronic filing training class will receive 2.5 credit hours of CLE.

**April 27, 2009**, the Clerk's Office hosts a meeting with the E-Filing Advisory/Leadership Committee and volunteer attorneys for live user-testing and a hands-on walk through of the system.

**May 4, 2009**, the Clerk's Office holds a meeting with representatives from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) and the Office of the Honorable Chief Judge Timothy Evans for a review of the system.

**May 11, 2009**, the Clerk's Office launches the E-Filing pilot project in the Individual Commercial Calendar Section of the Law Division.

**September 28, 2010**, Motion Spindling enhancement is added to the E-Filing service, enabling users to receive motion dates online rather than at the division's motion spindling counter.