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CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



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**FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION**  
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## **Clerk Dorothy Brown Salutes the Progress and Achievement of Women in the Judiciary**



Hon. Dorothy Brown (center), Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and Hon. Timothy Evans, Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, are surrounded by the women judges and justices who were honored during the Clerk's Office's Women's History Month event that recognized "Outstanding Women in the Judiciary."

**(CHICAGO -March 26, 2014) More than 50 women justices and judges of the First District Appellate Court and the Circuit Court of Cook County received trophies and certificates at Chase Tower Auditorium on March 26, during Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown's salute to "Outstanding Women in the Judiciary."**

The event was a Women's History Month celebration that recognized all of the women who serve in the Illinois Supreme Court, the First District Appellate Court and the Circuit Court of Cook County, with special recognition of **Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Rita B. Garman.**

Unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict, Chief Justice Garman eloquently replied in a written statement: "When I look back on my years in the judiciary and see how far we have come, I am both gratified and amazed that there are now three women serving as Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court and numerous other women in the circuit courts and the appellate court. This is certainly something worthy of celebration during Women's History Month."

**Cook County Circuit Court Chief Judge Timothy Evans** attended the event, offered greetings to the 400-member audience and commended the honorees, many of whom serve in his Cook County circuit courtrooms.

“Women continue to reflect a bench mark for judicial excellence,” said Chief Judge Evans. “It was gratifying for me to see the women justices and judges of the First Judicial District and the Cook Circuit honored for their service to our system of justice,” Evans added.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to bring attention to the outstanding work and important contributions to society made by our state and local judiciary,” said Clerk Brown. “The 2014 theme for national Women’s History Month is ‘Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment,’ and that perfectly describes the substance our program.”

Clerk Brown commented on how far women have advanced in the judicial field, stating, “In the 1800’s, women were considered ‘unfit’ to practice law and denied admission to the bar. Yet, due to the tenacity of women trailblazers throughout history, we now have women occupying three of the seven seats of the Illinois Supreme Court; nine women serving in the first District Illinois Appellate Court, and a total of 154 women sitting on the bench in Cook County Circuit Court, with ten serving in the capacity of Supervising or Presiding judges.”

The honorees in attendance at the “Outstanding Women in the Judiciary” event included: **Justice Maureen Connors, Justice Shelvin Louise Marie Hall, Justice Bertina Lampkin, and Justice Mary Anne Mason of Illinois First District Appellate Court; Supervising and Presiding Judges of Cook County Circuit Court: Hon. Evelyn Clay, Hon. Mary Ellen Coghlan, Hon. Grace G. Dickler, Hon. Kathy Flanagan, Hon. Cheryl Ingram, Hon. Marjorie C. Law, Hon. Patricia M. Martin and Hon. Shelley Sutker-Dermer; and 42 women judges of the Cook County Circuit Court.**

According to the Illinois Bar Association, “The percent of women serving as judges in Illinois has increased from 9 percent in 1990, to 18 percent in 2000, further to 30 percent in 2013.” This same research shows that the Cook County circuit court has the most females per capita, with women representing 40 percent of judges.

The “Outstanding Women in the Judiciary” program was sponsored by PennCredit, Harris & Harris, and Prestige Home Healthcare, and presented by Clerk Brown, the Clerk’s Office’s Women’s Advisory Committee and JP Morgan Chase and Company.

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