

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION**

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2010-01

SUBJECT: MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

Mortgage foreclosure case filings in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County have increased in the past ten (10) years, according to the records of the Clerk of the Court, as follows:

2000	12,705
2001	16,228
2002	17,450
2003	15,815
2004	15,632
2005	16,494
2006	22,248
2007	32,651
2008	43,876
2009	47,049

It is currently estimated that between 48,000 and 52,000 mortgage foreclosure cases will be filed in the year 2010. As of March 31, 2010, there were 60,766 mortgage foreclosure cases pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

To accommodate the increased mortgage foreclosure case filings, the Circuit Court created in 2005 a Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section within the Chancery Division. Currently fourteen (14) judges are assigned to the Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section, eleven (11) of whom hear mortgage foreclosure cases divided into ten (10) calendars. Since 2005, ten (10) additional judges have been assigned to the Chancery Division to hear mortgage foreclosure cases and six (6) additional courtrooms have been allocated to the Chancery Division.

Three important programs have been established in the Chancery Division to assist defendants in mortgage foreclosure cases to save their homes and/or to remain in their homes until dignified exit plans can be made. These include the establishment of the Chancery Division Advice Desk, the Chancery Division Access to Justice (appointment of counsel) Program, and the Chancery Division Mediation Rule (supported in part by the Center for Conflict Resolution).

