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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2010-03

SUBJECT: CASE MANAGEMENT DATE CORRECTIONS, MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

On June 30, 2009, the Presiding Judge of the Chancery Division entered General Administrative Order 2009-04 requiring the Clerk of the Court to assign every mortgage foreclosure case filed in the Chancery Division an Initial Case Management Conference date approximately 60 days after filing. In accordance with General Administrative Order 2009-05, entered August 26, 2009, when those 60-day Initial Case Management Conference dates began on September 1, 2009, plaintiffs' counsel were required to notify defendants of the conferences through a Notice of Initial Case Management Conference.

On April 8, 2010, through General Administrative Order 2010-01, the Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program was established in accordance with Local Rule 21, Chancery Division Court-Annexed Mediation. Pursuant to that Order, an adjustment was made to the assignment of the Initial Case Management Conference dates by the Clerk of the Court for all cases filed on or after April 12, 2010. Under Administrative Order 2010-01, the Clerk of the Court was directed to assign 60-day Initial Case Management Conference dates at the time of filing of each Complaint for Mortgage Foreclosure for all residential mortgage foreclosure cases, those coded as: (1) owner occupied single family home or condominium (0031); (2) non-owner occupied single family home or condominium (0032); (3) owner occupied six units or less (0033); and (4) multi-unit residential (0034). The remaining cases, those coded as commercial, mixed commercial/residential, or industrial (0035), or vacant land (0036), were to be assigned 180-day (six months) Initial Case Management Conference dates at the time of filing. In addition to the changes in the assignment of the Initial Case Management Conference dates by the Clerk, Administrative Order 2010-01 required plaintiffs' counsel to send a revised Notice of Initial Case Management Conference referencing the Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program.

Since the start of the Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program, it has come to the attention of the Office of the Presiding Judge that because of a programming error and because of the increased volume of case filings, the Clerk of the Court has not consistently assigned 60-day dates for all residential mortgage foreclosure cases filed on or after April 12, 2010. The Clerk's Office has worked diligently to identify and correct the programming error and has informed the Presiding Judge of the Chancery Division that the majority of cases affected are on Calendar 55. The Clerk's Office has also informed the Presiding Judge that the Clerk will be able to assign 60-day case