

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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2011-03

**SUBJECT: UNCONTESTED VACANT RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE CALLS**

Mortgage foreclosure case filings in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County have increased in the past eleven (11) 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
2010	50,621

A continued rise in mortgage foreclosure cases is expected in the year 2011. As of July 31, 2011, there were 76,603 cases pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Representatives from government bodies, community groups, and other parties who are interested in and working to alleviate problems associated with and resulting from the housing crisis have brought to the Court's attention the difficulties associated with vacant and abandoned properties in Cook County. Vacant and abandoned properties cause many public safety hazards and problems for communities including decreased home values, increased crime, dangerous conditions, and general deterioration resulting in urban blight.

While it is in each municipality's best interest to keep the homes occupied, due to the current economic situation, vacant properties inevitably continue to rise in Cook County and continue to contribute to urban blight. In order to help alleviate urban blight and allow municipalities to timely and appropriately address vacant and abandoned residential properties that are in foreclosure, the Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section of the Chancery Division will begin an uncontested vacant residential mortgage foreclosure call.

Effective no later than January 1, 2012, a Pilot Project will commence in the Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section of the Chancery Division in which uncontested cases involving vacant and abandoned residential properties will be heard on three (3) new calendars created for that purpose. The additional judges assigned to the Chancery Division for the Pilot Project will be

