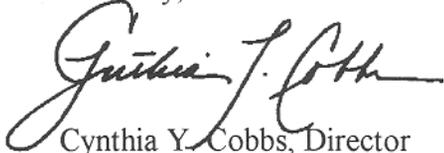


Letter of Transmittal

It is with pleasure that I transmit the **Annual Report of the Illinois Courts** for 2002. This report provides a comprehensive summary of the numerous projects and activities pursued by the Illinois Judicial Branch during 2002, a pictorial and biographical overview of the Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court, and a photographic sampling of the rich and diverse architecture of Illinois' supreme, appellate, and circuit courthouses. Further, the Report contains statistical data on court caseloads, a summary of the Supreme Court's several committees, and an overview of state and local funding for the Illinois Judicial Branch. Also included in the Report is a brief description of the six divisions that comprise the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

The Administrative Office is indebted to the clerks of the supreme, appellate and circuit courts for their assistance in supplying the statistical information provided herein. I also wish to express my gratitude to all who contributed to the development and preparation of this Report - without their work and efforts, this publication would not be possible. While the upcoming year presents many fiscal challenges to the Judicial Branch, the judges and employees of the Illinois courts remain committed to providing the highest level of judicial services to the people of Illinois in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cynthia Y. Cobbs".

Cynthia Y. Cobbs, Director
Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts