

# LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



Cynthia Y. Cobbs  
Director

It is my great pleasure to forward to you the **2009 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts**. This report presents an overview of the Illinois judicial system and its programs, services, workload, and funding. Calendar year 2009 continued to be a challenging time in our State and for the "Third Branch", as we stretched substantially reduced resources to sustain core functions of the judiciary. The 2009 Annual Report includes many accomplishments for the judiciary and summarizes such events as the 2009 Advanced Judicial Academy, the new Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, as well as caseload and statistical synopses of the judiciary. The report also presents a comprehensive overview of probation's workload, an area of deep concern as vastly diminished resources will impact its role in public safety. This report concludes with a brief description and overview of the six divisions of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, their current projects, and forecasts for the upcoming year.

The Administrative Office recognizes, and sincerely appreciates, the important contributions made by the clerks of the supreme, appellate and circuit courts in providing the statistical data included in this report. As always, I am proud of the accomplishments of my staff, and I wish to thank them and others who played key roles in preparing this document. The Illinois Judicial Branch's commitment to providing access to justice for Illinois citizens is ongoing and evident throughout this report. Notwithstanding serious fiscal constraints, the Illinois Courts remain vigilant in ensuring respect for human dignity and the protection of the rule of law. The Administrative Office is privileged to be a facilitator of this constant goal.

I hope that you find the Annual Report to be a valuable resource and a compelling account of the ongoing work to ensure justice for the citizens of our State. Please visit the Court's website at [www.state.il.us/court](http://www.state.il.us/court) for further information regarding the Illinois Courts and the Administrative Office. This report can also be accessed through our website. The website is an ever growing source of information and education for the citizens whom we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Y. Cobbs". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cynthia Y. Cobbs, Director

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

