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**CLERK DOROTHY BROWN AIDS
WRONGFULLY INCARCERATED ALTON LOGAN**

*After spending 26 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit,
Logan's pardon process is facilitated by Dorothy Brown*

CHICAGO (September 15, 2008) Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, was so moved by the story of Alton Logan that she tracked down his contact information and personally investigated his case to see how she could assist him.

Logan, 55, had been arrested and charged with the 1982 killing a Cook County Department of Corrections sergeant who was moonlighting as a McDonald's security guard when he was fatally shot. Logan spent 26 years in prison until April 2008, when Judge James Schreier vacated his conviction after attorneys Jamie Kunz and Dale Coventry revealed that one of their clients, Andrew Wilson, had admitted that he was the killer. Kunz and Coventry, now retired public defenders, testified in court in January 2008, that they had known this information since 1982, but kept it quiet to protect their client, bound by the client confidentiality requirement of the law. When Wilson died late last year, Kunz and Coventry came forward with the information that led to Logan's release.

On September 4, 2008, Logan left Cook County court cleared of all charges in the 1982 case. However, neither he nor anyone else could clear the anguish of having spent 26 years of his life in prison for a crime he did not commit. Logan told the media prior to his release, "Everything that was dear to me is gone." His mother died while he was in prison.

Since his release in April, Logan has had a hard time finding a job because of the murder charge that still hangs over his head.

Greatly affected by Logan's unfair, protracted predicament, Clerk Brown began to consider the ways she may help him. As the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Clerk Brown's Office processes petitions for expungement and sealing of criminal court cases and also offers information and referral services for legal assistance with pardons. She contacted Logan and began to look into all the facts surrounding his case. When she had information to share, she invited Logan to her office for a meeting.

Logan is seeking a pardon from Gov. Blagojevich, which would make him eligible for nearly \$200,000 in compensation, according to his attorney, Harold Winston.

In her office, Clerk Brown met with Logan who was accompanied by his aunt, Barbara Cannon. After some conversation about Logan's plight, Clerk Brown walked him and his aunt to the Clerk's Office Criminal

Department where Logan was immediately allowed to confer with an attorney from Cabrini Green Legal Aid. Afterwards, Logan returned to Clerk Brown's office to update her.

"There's a good chance for everything," he said with a slight smile.

The Cabrini Green attorney said that Alton should have a hearing with the Illinois Prisoner Review Board in March 2009. "I want my family to be with me then," Logan stated. Clerk Brown said she would also like to attend.

"Logan's dramatic story speaks volumes about the cracks in the justice system and how easily people can fall through those cracks if they do not have money or connections," Clerk Brown said. "My dream is to make the statement, 'Justice for All,' have literal meaning: equal justice for everyone, regardless of their race, gender, education or economic status."

For all that he was forced to endure, Logan feels the least he should receive freely is an apology from Mayor Daley, who was the state's attorney when Logan was arrested and charged in 1982. Daley has been quoted as saying that he couldn't remember the Logan case. Logan said about the mayor, "Even though I'm seeking an apology, he'll never do it. He'll never admit that he was wrong."

On the other hand, Logan cheerfully stated, "Meeting Ms. Brown has helped me to understand that the city will work if someone cares; if someone takes the time to look into these matters, it will work."

"The possibility of a pardon is a good thing," Logan said. "Ms. Brown introduced me to people with the knowledge of how to obtain one, and I appreciate that."

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Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, personally escorts Alton Logan to the Legal Aid area of the Clerk's Office, where he will confer with an attorney about the possibility of a pardon.

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Clerk Brown goes over documents from Alton Logan's case with a Cabrini Green Legal Aid attorney (left), while Logan looks on.

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Clerk Brown meets with Alton Logan (right) and his aunt, Barbara Cannon, to discuss the details of his case.



Encouraged by Clerk Brown's offer of assistance in the pardon process, Alton Logan poses with Clerk Brown and his aunt, who are flanked by Clerk's Office staff members, Dennis McNamara (left), Executive Clerk of Court Operations, and Elena Shea Demos, Chief Deputy General Counsel.

