

Letter of Transmittal



It is my pleasure to transmit the **Annual Report of the Illinois Courts** for 2004. The Report provides a comprehensive summary of the many projects and activities pursued by the Illinois Judicial Branch during 2004, a pictorial and biographical overview of the Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court, and a photographic sampling of the diverse architecture of Illinois' supreme, appellate, and circuit courthouses. Further, the Report contains a summary of the 2004 Illinois Judicial Conference Annual Meeting, 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 preparation of this Report. While the upcoming year presents broad challenges to the Judicial Branch, including effectuating comprehensive security plans for the Supreme and Appellate courthouses, and the continuous and effective management of our limited fiscal resources, the judges and employees of the Illinois courts remain committed to providing the highest level of quality and access to judicial services to the people of Illinois in 2005.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Y. Cobbs". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

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