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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shakman Compliance Administrator Releases Fifth Report

On September 14, 2009, Cook County Compliance Administrator Mary Robinson released her Fifth Report to the Court. This report summarizes the work of the office since the Fourth Report filed by prior Compliance Administrator, Julia Nowicki, in November 2008.

In sum, the Report traces the substantial progress that the County has made in drafting and implementing new positions, procedures and practices important in deterring unlawful political hiring and other employment practices. On the other hand, the Report portrays the types of questionable conduct that still occurs despite the efforts to contain it.

Major recommendations for action include restructuring the Human Resources Bureau and giving the present Chief authority to hire additional, politically neutral supervisors; extending the independence of the Health and Hospital System; and imposing consequences on employees who evade or disobey legal prohibitions on unlawful political employment practices.