



## Supreme Court of Illinois

August 20, 2021

### **ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT UNVEILS PLANS FOR FUTURE STATEWIDE PRETRIAL SYSTEM**

The Illinois Supreme Court announced today a new operational structure for pretrial services which will place all pretrial services under the authority of the Supreme Court’s Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC), including employment of all pretrial officers. The AOIC will be tasked with the development and enforcement of all pretrial standards throughout Illinois in order to support the implementation of the Criminal Justice Reform Act (“SAFE-T Act”). The SAFE-T Act is scheduled to take effect in January 2023. The Judicial Branch looks forward to working with the Legislature on additional statutory changes necessary before the new operational structure takes effect.

The Illinois Supreme Court, with assistance from the Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Implementation Task Force (Task Force), has determined that placing the operational structure for pretrial services under the supervision of the AOIC will best achieve consistent, statewide pretrial practices and ease the burden on counties facing unfunded mandates and decreased revenue with bond reform. The Court also seeks to ensure the procedures used in circuit courts throughout Illinois are fair, efficient, transparent, accountable and adequately resourced using legal and evidence-based practices. Projected costs for staffing pretrial services statewide are similar to current costs that cover staffing of pretrial services in only a fraction of Illinois counties.

“The Illinois Supreme Court supports a pretrial services system that is consistent throughout the state and provides fair and impartial treatment for all,” Chief Justice Anne M. Burke said. “There is a lot of work to be done and we look forward to achieving this goal over the next 16 months and beyond.”

In April 2020 the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices (Commission) published its report on pretrial reform after studying best practices in use around the country for two years. The Commission’s final report was approved by the Supreme Court in May 2020. Following the release of its final report the Pretrial Practices Commission was replaced by the Task Force, a multidisciplinary group comprised of representatives from all three branches of government which has been meeting regularly since July 2020.

“I would like to thank the Supreme Court for working diligently on this issue over the last several years and look forward to assisting with implementation,” said retired DeKalb County

Judge Robbin Stuckert, who served as chair of both the Commission and Task Force. “It is gratifying to see Illinois continue on the path to comprehensive pretrial reform.”

It is estimated by the Task Force that pretrial staff in Illinois will complete 135,000 risk assessments/bond reports and supervise 71,000 defendants placed on pretrial supervision annually. Under the new structure there will be Risk Assessment staff, Bond Report staff, and Pretrial Supervision staff and most of the Pretrial Officers’ work will come from reminding clients of court dates and helping clients overcome obstacles to attend court dates.

Additional information including FAQs is available on the Supreme Court’s website at <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/probation-programs>.

**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Chris Bonjean, Communications Director to the Illinois Supreme Court at 312.793.2323 or [cbonjean@illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:cbonjean@illinoiscourts.gov).)**