

DOROTHY BROWN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



Richard J. Daley Center
Room 1001
Chicago, Illinois 60602
312- 603-5030
FAX 312-603-4557
www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2008

Press Contact:

Jalyne Strong (312) 603-5690
jrstrong@cookcountycourt.com

**DOROTHY BROWN, AAIM AND IDOT ERECT ROADSIDE
MEMORIAL TO 17-YEAR OLD DUI CRASH VICTIM**

CHICAGO (October 20, 2008) - The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, joined Joel Mains, stepfather of 17-year-old, DUI crash victim Caitlin Weese, along with the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in a ceremony commemorating the placement of a roadside memorial sign in Weese's honor.

The memorial marker is 36" wide by 24" high and the top portion will read, "Please Don't Drink and Drive." A separate 36" by 18" bottom panel will read, "In Memory of Caitlin Weese; May 22, 2003." The actual sign will be posted at the spot where Caitlin was struck by a drunk driver on Route 72, outside of Gilberts, Illinois. A Larkin High School student, just nine days away from graduation, Caitlin died two days after the crash from internal injuries.

"To attend the roadside memorial honoring young Caitlin will be a bittersweet moment for me," said Clerk Brown. "After the DUI crash that killed Tina Ball on Sept. 15, 2003, I enthusiastically pushed for the legislation that led to 'Tina's Law,' which allows relatives of victims who were killed by DUI offenders to request a memorial marker for any fatal DUI car crash that occurred after Jan. 1, 1990.

"While these memorial signs serve an important and practical purpose, cautioning against drinking and driving, they are also a poignant reminder of innocent lives senselessly lost and the devastated friends and family left to mourn. It is my sincere hope that these signs are highly effective in helping to reduce or eliminate drunk driving, and that they bring solace to those who knew and loved the victims of the fatal DUI crashes."

###



At the roadside memorial program for Caitlin Weese, who was a 17-year old student at Larkin High School killed by a drunk driver on May 22, 2003, Clerk Brown (center) stands with Caitlin's family, members of the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). A roadside marker in memory of Caitlin is erected at the site of the crash on Illinois Hwy 72, near Waitkus Park in Gilberts, Illinois.