OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2010

CLERK DOROTHY BROWN SAYS JON BURGE CONVICTION MEANS THAT JUSTICE AND TRUTH HAVE RISEN AGAIN

Statement by the Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, regarding the June 28, 2010, conviction of former Chicago Police Department Commander Jon Burge on charges of obstruction of justice and perjury:

When Jon Burge was arrested on Oct. 21, 2008, I quoted Martin Luther King Jr., stating, "Truth crushed to earth will rise again." Yesterday's conviction of former Chicago police Lt. Jon Burge is justice and truth risen.

Back in February 2007, I was the first elected official to send a letter to U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald urging him to launch an independent federal investigation into the alleged cover-up of the tortures cases by Burge and officers under his command.

In Burge's case, the wheels of justice turned slowly, but they turned nonetheless, thanks to the persistence of many concerned citizens, journalists, lawyers and elected officials who were outraged by the despicable acts of Burge and his detectives, allegedly carried out in the name of Chicago law enforcement.

I applaud the diligent work of U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald in his pursuit of charges against Burge. I also commend the men and women of the jury for their dedication to weighing the evidence and their courage in delivering a just verdict.

My heart goes out to the many torture victims who should have received equal protection under the law in spite of the fact that they may have been crime suspects. I have assisted several wrongfully incarcerated Burge victims over the past few years in their efforts to receive Certificates of Innocence, including Michael Tillman, who was imprisoned for 23 years, David Bates, who was sentenced to 20 years, and Alton Logan, unjustly imprisoned for 26 years.

Now, justice has finally been served.

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