

Prior to creating the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project, Professor Stone served as the Public Defender of Cook County, responsible for the management of a \$32 million budget and the leadership of more than 500 attorneys and 200 support staff. He was also deputy director for the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia and a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow for the Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington, D.C.

He has advocated for a number of indigent defense initiatives such as attorney independence, case load limits, vertical representation, zealous advocacy, client centered and community representation, private bar involvement, and expanded support services in an effort to improve the effectiveness and integrity of the justice system.

Mr. Stone received his BA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin.

Gregory Thomas

Chief of Police of Aurora, Illinois

Chief Thomas began his police career in 1978 and has been Chief of Police in Aurora, Illinois since 2008. As a member of the criminal justice system, he has a valuable perspective on the system's key agencies.

Chief Thomas has been instrumental in many new programs and initiatives within the police department especially those that concern technology, training and procedures. As chief, he initiated technology and equipment upgrades, changed the department's promotional process and performance programs and implemented a Crisis Intervention Team.

The City of Aurora has witnessed record reduction of crime including a 73% reduction in shootings, 83% reduction in murders and a third fewer "part 1" crimes. Traffic crashes dropped 22% during his tenure as chief.

Chief Thomas holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Lewis University and a Masters of Business Administration Degree from Aurora University.

Thank You!

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Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice

American Bar Association, Criminal Sections

Office of the President Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas

Loyola University Chicago



Justice Through Efficiency

Managing an Over-Burdened Justice System
No Charge / MCLE pending

Efficiency is one of the cornerstones of justice.

Efficient administration of justice promotes a speedy trial and all of its attendant benefits. While that constitutional right to a speedy trial should be reason enough to strive for greater efficiency, today's economic climate compels us to work not only harder, but much smarter.

Inefficiency, in all of its forms, is costly. It wastes valuable and desperately needed resources, monetary and human. The cost can be seen in every corner and at every level of the criminal justice system, though it is most readily apparent in our overcrowded jails.

Many of our colleagues from criminal justice systems in different parts of the state and country have been successful at increasing efficiency in their efforts. We have asked a few of them to come and share their success stories. While their jurisdictions may not be identical to ours, each example makes clear that efficiency begins with a mindset that applies to all types of organizations, including the Cook County Criminal Justice System.

Today's Program

WELCOME **Toni Preckwinkle**, *Cook County Board President*

MODERATOR **Tom Wartowski**, *Assistant State's Attorney (retired)*

PANELISTS **Pamela Dembe**, *President Judge Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas*

Paul Logli, *Winnebago County States Attorney and Circuit Judge (retired)*

Randolph Stone, *Clinical Professor of Law, University of Chicago*

Gregory Thomas, *Chief of Police of Aurora, Illinois*

Q & A Written questions of the panelists will be taken from the audience.

Hosted by the Cook County Justice Advisory Council

What is “Justice Through Efficiency”?

A justice system aims to keep the public safe by making and enforcing laws. Justice efficiency is about achieving those goals by optimizing scarce, valuable resources, like time, money, and data.

Since crime rates are unpredictable, some justice stakeholders have looked to improve performance in areas within their control. Drawing on organizational principles used in other complex systems, many systems have improved technology, budgeting, training, ethics, and personnel management.

The resulting savings can then be reinvested in improving the underlying conditions of crime. The panelists with us today have first-hand experience with efficient justice policies, which you can read about in their biographies below.

How Can Cook County benefit from efficient justice?

Much like a large business, Cook County's justice system is highly complex. Each of our agencies is among the largest in the United States, and many of the crimes being adjudicated are extremely serious. Like all justice systems, Cook County's is adversarial by design, and each agency is operated and funded independently. Yet, the policies of police, prosecutors, defenders and judges interact constantly.

For example, a rise in crime can lead to more arrests and fuller jails. Additionally, police witnesses have less time to make it to court. Without these key witnesses, greater numbers of cases languish or are dismissed (or both). Ultimately, long or fruitless prosecutions undermine the justice system's entire purpose, not to mention attorneys' morale. Efficient justice agencies find ways to respond to this type of scenario cooperatively.

Pamela Dembe

President Judge Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas

President Judge Dembe has served on the Court of Common Pleas since January of 1990. Since 2004, she has served as Coordinating Judge of the Major Criminal Section, Supervising Judge of the Criminal Section of the Trial Division of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, and now President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

Since 2008, Judge Dembe has presided over several major reforms within Philadelphia's justice system, including converting the court to a paperless process, partnering with the University of Pennsylvania to pioneer a risk assessment computer model in optimizing sentencing decisions and avoiding needlessly long sentences and partnering with the District Attorney to develop a diversionary program for felony drug cases called the "Choice Is Yours."

Since 2010, during a period of rising gun violence, the City of Philadelphia has enjoyed a 11% reduction in its average daily jail population, while saving over \$10 million in associated overtime costs.

President Judge Dembe earned her undergraduate degree from Temple University in 1972. Upon graduating, she attended Temple University School of Law where she received her Juris Doctorate in 1977.

Paul A. Logli

Winnebago County State's Attorney and Circuit Judge (retired)

Paul Logli served as Winnebago County State's Attorney for nearly 21 years from 1986 until 2007 when he retired to accept a brief appointment to the circuit bench. Prior to serving as State's Attorney, Mr. Logli had been an Associate Judge, an Assistant State's Attorney and in private practice.

Mr. Logli was President of the National District Attorneys Association in 2005-2006. He previously served as President of the Illinois State's Attorneys Association and as President of the Winnebago County Bar Association. He was an instructor for the Illinois State Bar Association and, for nearly 20 years, served on the faculty of the National College of District Attorneys.

In 2003, in response to a federal lawsuit, Winnebago County entered into an interim agreement to reduce the population of its county jail while it built a new facility. The 27-year-old jail, which had been built with a capacity of 394, was housing 733 inmates.

State's Attorney Logli was charged with the responsibility of making sure the county met its obligation. He did. Two years later the jail population leveled off in the mid-400s but got as low as 393, a 53 per cent reduction. The crime rate also declined during that time period while DOC commitments increased. The new jail opened in 2007.

Mr. Logli received his Bachelor's Degree in 1971 from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and his Juris Doctorate Degree in 1974 from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Randolph Stone

Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School Mandel Legal Aid Clinic's Criminal and Juvenile Justice Projects

Professor Stone directs the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project, which leads policy reform and public education efforts, while providing law and social work students the supervised opportunity to provide quality representation to children and young adults charged with criminal behavior.