The Legal Case Against Berrios

Latest study confirms that Office of Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios needs court oversight in order to reform

Yesterday afternoon, a long-awaited independent report commissioned by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle confirmed a series of previous studies dating back to 2011: Low-income communities are improperly and unfairly saddled with a disproportionate share of the property tax burden.

In Chicago, Hispanic and African-American communities are systemically over-assessed when compared with residential properties in majority White areas. This is institutional racism.

That’s why in December, Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights worked with our co-counsel Miner, Barnhill & Galland and Hughes Socol Piers Resnick
Yesterday’s study on the Cook County Assessor’s Office leaves no room for doubt. Our property tax system is broken. & Dym to file litigation on behalf of two community organizations, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council and Logan Square Neighborhood Association, against the Assessor’s Office to end this regressive and unlawful system.

At Chicago Lawyers’ Committee, we will not stand by while the Assessor’s Office breaks another promise. The ultimate goal of our lawsuit is to have the Court invalidate the County’s property tax assessment system, and to send an independent monitor who will supervise the adoption of a fairer, more accurate, and transparent model.

Stand with us as we stand with homeowners to demand fair taxation.

DONATE NOW TO SUPPORT OUR WORK

Sincerely,

Bonnie Allen, Executive Director

Our litigation in the news
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“The report confirms what we have alleged and what has been found in other reports, but we maintain that it won’t produce the changes needed,” Advocacy Director Aneel Chablani said.

“We need court oversight and an independent monitor to implement reforms.” Chicago Sun-Times

The assessor’s failures have led to calls for change and exposed the county to litigation. In December, three prominent public interest law firms sued the county and Berrios in Cook County Circuit Court alleging violations of state and federal civil rights and housing laws. ProPublica Illinois

Resources on the lawsuit

Have you been impacted by faulty property tax assessments in Cook County?

If you think you have been under- or over-charged for your residential property taxes, please contact us.

Your story can make a difference.

CONTACT US
Yesterday's study on the Cook County Assessor's Office leaves no room for doubt. Our property tax system is broken.

Visit our resource page in English or Spanish to read the full complaint, learn the basic allegations, find media coverage, and share your story about the impact of unfair residential property tax assessments.