



John T. Cooke

Regional Commissioner, Great Lakes Region
Public Buildings Service
U.S. General Services Administration

John T. Cooke was named Regional Commissioner of the General Services Administration's (GSA) Public Buildings Service, Great Lakes Region in May 2015. In that post he heads the U.S. real estate operations in the region's six states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) and is responsible for a property portfolio comprising 35 million square feet of offices and workplaces in nearly 1,009 buildings owned or leased by GSA.

During his tenure, Mr. Cooke has championed employee engagement through increased leadership transparency, mentoring, and creation of an employee association. He has also overseen major renovation projects of U.S. courthouses in Chicago, Detroit, and Toledo and a successful partnership with the City of Chicago to repurpose underutilized federal properties on Chicago's State Street.



Prior to this appointment, Mr. Cooke was the Cook County Asset Management Bureau Chief, responsible for directing the county's real estate, facilities, and asset management programs. He also helped execute the county's 10-year, \$1.9 billion capital program, which included capital repairs and new construction of office, medical, correctional, and warehouse facilities. Finally, he directed a 2013 Chicago Innovator Awards finalist team, which negotiated \$60 million of guaranteed energy performance contracting for Cook County.

While in the private sector, Mr. Cooke simultaneously led nine project teams involved in new mixed-use developments with an aggregate budget of more than \$350 million. He also provided asset management services for the daily operations of Chicago Public School Facilities.

Mr. Cooke, an Illinois licensed real estate broker with a Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation, holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida A&M University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame. Recognized in 2014 by the *Chicago Defender* as one of the city's 50 African American Men of Excellence, Cooke has developed and managed complex commercial initiatives and strategic programs for private real estate firms and local government.

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