



Commonwealth of Virginia

**Auditor of Public Accounts
P.O. Box 1295
Richmond, Virginia 23218**

Walter J. Kucharski, Auditor

January 27, 2011

The Honorable Randall M. Blow
Chief Judge
City of Virginia Beach Juvenile and
Domestic Relations District Court
2425 Nimmo Pkwy, Building 10
Municipal Center
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Audit Period: July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010
Court System: City of Virginia Beach
Judicial District: Second

We are performing a statewide audit of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. During our review of this court, we conducted certain audit procedures, as we deemed appropriate.

Management of this court is an important part of the court's accountability, since you are responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls and complying with applicable laws and regulations. During our review, we noted certain matters that required management's attention and corrective action. These matters included:

Recover Costs for Court-Appointed Attorneys

The clerk did not recoup from the locality the state funds used to pay court-appointed attorneys and public defenders when they represented defendants charged with local offenses as required by Section 19.2-163 of the Code of Virginia. In our review of 10 cases, the Clerk failed to bill the locality for six cases totaling \$720 in court-appointed attorney and public defenders' fees paid by the Commonwealth.

We recommend the clerk research all similar cases, make the appropriate corrections to case paperwork, and where appropriate, bill the localities for the applicable court-appointed attorney and public defender fees. Further, we recommend the Clerk work with the Office of the Executive Secretary to improve oversight in these billing practices.

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We acknowledge the cooperation extended to us by the Court during this engagement.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

WJK:alh

cc: The Honorable Gerrit W. Benson, Judge
The Honorable Deborah V. Bryan, Judge
The Honorable Deborah M. Paxson, Judge
The Honorable Deborah L. Rawls, Judge
The Honorable Ramona D. Taylor, Judge
The Honorable Winshop C. Tower, Judge
Pamela Scott, Clerk
Paul F. DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services
Supreme Court of Virginia