



Commonwealth of Virginia

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

Walter J. Kucharski, Auditor

August 27, 2009

The Honorable Gayle J. Ashworth
Clerk of the Circuit Court
County of Essex

Board of Supervisors
County of Essex

Audit Period: April 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009
Court System: County of Essex

We have audited the cash receipts and disbursements of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for this locality. Our primary objectives were to test the accuracy of financial transactions recorded on the Court's financial management system; evaluate the Court's internal controls; and test its compliance with significant state laws, regulations, and policies.

Management's Responsibility

Court management has responsibility for establishing and maintaining internal controls and complying with applicable laws and regulations. Internal control is a process designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Deficiencies in internal controls could possibly lead to the loss of revenues or assets, or otherwise compromise fiscal accountability.

Financial Matters

We noted no instances of improper recording and reporting of financial transactions in the Court's financial management system.

Internal Controls

We noted no matters involving internal control and its operation necessary to bring to management's attention.

Compliance

The results of our tests of compliance with applicable laws and regulations disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported.

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

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

WJK:kmk

cc: The Honorable J. Martin Bass, Chief Judge
David Whitlow, County Administrator
Paul F. DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services
Supreme Court of Virginia
Director, Admin and Public Records
Department of Accounts