



# Commonwealth of Virginia

**Walter J. Kucharski, Auditor**

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

January 27, 2011

The Honorable Gerald F. Daltan  
Chief Judge  
County of Stafford Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court  
PO Box 400  
Stafford, VA 22555-0400

Audit Period: July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2010  
Court System: County of Stafford  
Judicial District: Fifteenth

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 recover from the locality the state funds used to pay public defenders when they represented defendants charged with local offenses as required by Section 19.2-163 of the Code of Virginia. In all seven cases included in our review, the Clerk failed to bill the locality for \$840 in Public Defenders fees paid by the Commonwealth. Additionally, five of these cases also had errors when recording the costs to the defendants in the automated system.

We recommend the Clerk research all similar cases, make the appropriate corrections to case paperwork and defendant accounts, and bill the localities for the applicable public defender fees. Further, we recommend the Clerk work with the Office of the Executive Secretary to receive training in these billing practices.

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

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

WJK: clj

cc: The Honorable Julian W. Johnson, Judge  
James B. Thompson, Clerk  
Paul F. DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services  
Supreme Court of Virginia