

**STUART B. FALLEN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE
COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE**

**REPORT ON AUDIT
FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 1, 2009 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2010**



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Commonwealth of Virginia

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

Walter J. Kucharski, Auditor

August 20, 2010

The Honorable Stuart B. Fallen
Clerk of the Circuit Court
County of Charlotte

Board of Supervisors
County of Charlotte

Audit Period: April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010
Court System: County of Charlotte

We have audited the cash receipts and disbursements of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for this Court System and for the period noted above. 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.

We noted a matter involving internal controls and its operation necessary to bring to management's attention. The matter is discussed in the section titled Comments to Management. Any response and written corrective action plan to remediate this matter provided by the Clerk are included as an enclosure to this report.

We discussed this comments with the Clerk and we acknowledge the cooperation extended to us by the court during this engagement.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

WJK:alh

cc: The Honorable Richard S. Blanton, Chief Judge
Russell B. Clark, Jr., County Administrator
Robyn M. de Socio, Executive Secretary
Compensation Board
Paul F. DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services
Supreme Court of Virginia
Director, Admin and Public Records
Department of Accounts

COMMENTS TO MANAGEMENT

We noted the following matter or involving internal control and its operation that has led or could lead to the loss of revenues, assets, or otherwise compromise the Clerk's fiscal accountability.

Allow Electronic Access to Land Records

The Clerk does not allow citizens to purchase subscriptions to access his electronic land records system as provided by the Code of Virginia. The Clerk collects funds to automate and maintain his land records and the Compensation Board allocates those funds to develop and update the automated system used to provide the electronic access. The Clerk should allow citizens to purchase subscriptions to access his electronic land records system.

We spoke with the Clerk on August 10, 2010 to discuss this finding and to obtain a written response and corrective action plan for inclusion in this report. The Clerk refused to respond or provide a plan and therefore no such response or plan is included within this report.