



# Commonwealth of Virginia

**Walter J. Kucharski, Auditor**

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

December 28, 2010

The Honorable Robert H. Downer, Jr.  
Chief Judge  
County of Goochland General District Court  
P. O. Box 2677  
Charlottesville, VA 22902

The Honorable Susan L. Whitlock  
Chief Judge  
County of Goochland Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
P. O. Box 452  
Louisa, VA 23093

Audit Period: July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010  
Court System: County of Goochland  
Judicial District: Sixteenth

We are performing a statewide audit of the Combined General District 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:

The Clerk billed the Commonwealth instead of the county for court appointed attorney fees totaling \$600. Section 19.2-163 of the Code of Virginia requires that the locality pay all court-appointed attorney fees resulting from the defense of local charges. The Clerk should recover the moneys from the locality and should research all similar cases and make the appropriate corrections to the necessary recorded entries. Further, we recommend the Clerk work with the Office of the Executive Secretary to receive training in these recording practices.

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

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

WJK: clj

cc: The Honorable Edward DeJ. Berry, Judge  
The Honorable Edward K. Carpenter, Judge  
Dianne H. White, Clerk  
Paul F. DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services  
Supreme Court of Virginia