



Commonwealth of Virginia

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

Walter J. Kucharski, Auditor

January 27, 2009

The Honorable J. Larry Palmer
Chief Judge
County of Sussex
General District Court
100 East Broadway
Hopewell, VA 23860

The Honorable Carson E. Saunders, Jr.
Chief Judge
County of Sussex Juvenile and
Domestic Relations District Court
315 South Main Street
Emporia, VA 23847

Mr. Karl R. Hade
Magistrate Supervising Authority
Executive Secretary
Office of the Executive Secretary
of the Supreme Court of Virginia

Audit Period: April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008
Court System: County of Sussex
Judicial District: Sixth
Magisterial Region: Third

We have audited the cash receipts and disbursements of the Clerk of the Combined General District Court and the associated Magistrates for this locality. Our primary objectives for both the Court and the Magistrates were to test the accuracy of financial transactions recorded on the applicable financial management system; evaluate 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 and the Magistrates during this engagement.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

WJK:kmk

cc: The Honorable Steven D. Bloom, Judge
Frances M. Fountain, Clerk
William Oakes, Regional Magistrate Supervisor
David Tillar, Chief Magistrate
Paul F. DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services
Supreme Court of Virginia