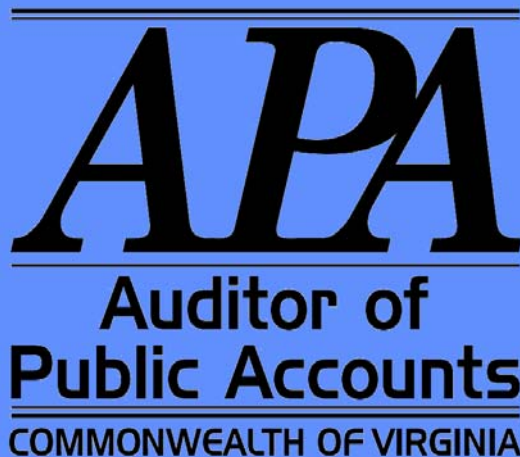


**COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
GENERAL DISTRICT COURT**

**REPORT ON AUDIT
FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008**





Commonwealth of Virginia

Auditor of Public Accounts

P.O. Box 1295

Richmond, Virginia 23218

Walter J. Kucharski, Auditor

August 29, 2008

The Honorable Sage B. Johnson
Chief Judge
County of Washington General District Court
191 East Main Street
Abingdon, VA 24210

The Honorable Karl S. Hade
Executive Secretary
Magistrate Supervising Authority
191 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Audit Period: April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008
Court System: County of Washington
Judicial District: Twenty-Eighth

We have audited the cash receipts and disbursements of the Clerk of the 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 and Magistrate 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.

Additionally, we noted no instances of improper recording and reporting of financial transactions in the Magistrates' financial management records.

Internal Controls

Additionally, we noted no matters involving internal control and its operation necessary to bring to Court management's attention.

As well, we noted no matters involving internal control and its operation necessary to bring to Magistrate management's attention.

Compliance

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

However, the results of our tests of compliance with applicable laws and regulations disclosed instances of noncompliance with the Magistrates that are required to be reported.

We acknowledge the cooperation extended to us by the Court and the Chief Magistrate during this engagement. The issues identified above are discussed in the section titled Comments to Management.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

WJK:kmk

cc: The Honorable Sage B. Johnson, Judge
Edna S. Griffin, Clerk
George F. VanHoy, Chief Magistrate
Paul DeLosh, Director of Technical Assistance
Supreme Court of Virginia

COMMENTS TO MANAGEMENT

Compliance

The results of our tests of compliance with applicable laws and regulations disclosed the following instances of the Magistrates' noncompliance.

Properly Reconcile Bank Account

Magistrate Mullins did not reconcile his bank account for the period April 2007 through June 2008 as required by Ch. 10 of the Magistrate's Manual. Failing to properly reconcile and correct differences could result in errors or irregularities going undetected. The Magistrate should reconcile his bank account monthly. The Chief Magistrate should periodically review Magistrate records to ensure his staff is complying with the requirements in the Magistrate's Manual.

