Commonwealth of Virginia

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

Walter J. Kucharski, Auditor

May 8, 2006

The Honorable Barbara G. Decatur
Clerk of the Circuit Court
County of Stafford

Board of Supervisors
County of Stafford

We have audited the cash receipts and disbursements of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County of Stafford for the period April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006.

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. However, our audit was more limited than would be necessary to provide assurance on the internal controls or on overall compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

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.

Our audit was more limited than would be necessary to provide assurance on internal controls or to provide an opinion on overall compliance with laws and regulations. Because of inherent limitations in internal controls, errors, irregularities, or noncompliance may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projecting the evaluation of internal controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls may deteriorate.

We noted no matters involving internal control and its operation that we consider to be reportable conditions. A reportable condition involves a matter coming to our attention relating to a deficiency in the design or operation of internal controls that, in our judgment, could reasonably lead to the loss of revenues or assets, or otherwise compromise fiscal accountability.

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

The Clerk has taken corrective action to remediate the internal control findings that we reported in the previous audit

We acknowledge the cooperation extended to us during this engagement.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

WJK:sks

cc: The Honorable Ann Hunter Simpson, Chief Judge
R. Steve Crosby, County Administrator
Paul Delosh, Director of Technical Assistance
Supreme Court of Virginia
Director, Admin and Public Records
Department of Accounts