# Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund

Financial Report 2024 and 2023



10202 Jefferson Highway, Building A Baton Rouge, LA 70809

www.laclerksofcourt.org

# LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

October 24, 2024

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# Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

# **Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (the Fund), as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fund's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the respective changes in net position for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

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#### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### Emphasis of a Matter

As disclosed in Note 4 to the financial statements, the total pension liability for the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund was \$984,190,431 and \$958,771,978 at June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The actuarial valuations were based on various assumptions made by the Fund's actuary. Because actual experience may differ from the assumptions used in the actuarial valuation, there is a risk that the total pension liability at June 30, 2024 and 2023 could be understated or overstated.

#### Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and the required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

# Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Fund's basic financial statements. The other supplementary information as listed in the table of contents is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the other supplementary information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated October 24, 2024 on our consideration of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on our test of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Duplantier, phapmen, Hogan and Thaker, LCP New Orleans, Louisiana

The Management's Discussion and Analysis of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's (the Fund) financial performance presents a narrative overview and analysis of the Fund's financial activities for the year ended June 30, 2024. This document focuses on the current year's activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts in comparison with the prior year's information. Please read this document in conjunction with the information contained in the financial statements, which begin on page 12.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Fund's assets exceeded its liabilities at the close of fiscal year 2024 by \$817,807,571. The net position restricted for pension benefits increased by \$74,160,169, or 9.97%. The Fund's assets exceeded its liabilities at the close of fiscal year 2023 by \$743,647,402. The net position restricted for pension benefits increased by \$50,413,318, or 7.27%.
- Contributions to the plan by members and employers totaled \$32,887,207, an increase of \$1,213,265, or 3.83%, over the prior year. Fiscal year 2023 contributions to the plan by members and employers totaled \$31,673,942, an increase of \$1,269,707, or 4.18%, over the prior year.
- Funds collected from ad valorem taxes within the respective parishes totaled \$13,548,166, an increase of \$1,212,787 from the prior year. Funds collected in fiscal year 2023 from ad valorem taxes within the respective parishes totaled \$12,335,379, an increase of \$549,856 from the prior year.
- Funds collected from state revenue sharing funds totaled \$320,126, an increase of \$247 from the prior year. Funds collected in fiscal year 2023 from state revenue sharing funds totaled \$319,879, an increase of \$213 from the prior year.
- Net appreciation in the fair value of investments was \$80,587,965, compared to net appreciation of \$56,854,413 as of June 30, 2024.
- The total return on the Fund's investments for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 was 12.56% and 9.67%, respectively.
- Pension benefits paid to retirees and beneficiaries for the fiscal year 2024 increased by \$1,508,544, or 3.16%. Pension benefits paid to retirees and beneficiaries for fiscal year 2023 increased by \$1,519,064, or 3.28% from the prior year.
- DROP benefits paid to participants increased by \$1,903,498, or 38.61%, over the previous year. DROP benefits paid to participants in fiscal year 2023 increased by \$763,616, or 18.33%, over the previous year.

#### OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Fund's basic financial statements, which are comprised of three components:

- Statements of fiduciary net position,
- Statements of changes in fiduciary net position, and
- Notes to the financial statements.

This report also contains required supplemental information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

The statements of fiduciary net position report the Fund's assets, liabilities, and results in net position restricted for pension benefits. It discloses the financial position of the Fund as of June 30, 2024 and 2023.

The statements of changes in fiduciary net position report the results of the Fund's operations during the years, disclosing the additions to and deductions from fiduciary net position. It supports the change that has occurred to the prior year's net position on the statement of fiduciary net position.

#### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUND:

Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund provides benefits to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, each of the courts of appeal, each of the district courts, and each of the city and traffic courts in cities having a population in excess of four hundred thousand and the employees of such clerks, whether full-time or part-time throughout the State of Louisiana, and the employees of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association. Employee contributions, employer contributions, and earnings on investments fund these benefits.

# **Condensed Statement of Fiduciary Position As of June 30, 2024, 2023 and 2022**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 816,040,428	\$ 741,862,780	\$ 690,554,046
Receivables	4,469,159	3,328,327	3,381,034
Property and equipment, net	775,799	711,299	689,530
Total assets	821,285,386	745,902,406	694,624,610
Total liabilities	3,477,815	2,255,004	1,390,526
Net position restricted			
for pension benefits	\$ 817,807,571	\$ 743,647,402	\$ 693,234,084

Fiduciary net position increased by \$74,160,169, or 9.97% for fiscal year 2024. Fiduciary net position increased by \$50,413,318 or 7.27% for the fiscal year 2023. Assets are used to provide monthly retirement allowances to members who contributed to the Fund as employees and their beneficiaries. The increase in fiduciary net position was a result of the increase in the value of investments due to favorable market performance.

#### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUND: (Continued)

# Condensed Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Position For the Years Ending June 30, 2024, 2023 and 2022

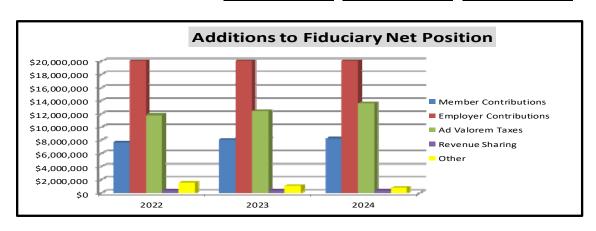
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Additions:			
Contributions	\$ 46,755,499	\$ 44,329,200	\$ 42,509,424
Net investment income (loss)	85,334,808	60,388,034	(75,593,162)
Other	685,261	 973,539	1,498,472
Total additions	132,775,568	 105,690,773	 (31,585,266)
Less: deductions	58,615,399	 55,277,455	 53,568,993
Increase (decrease) in			
net position	\$ 74,160,169	\$ 50,413,318	\$ (85,154,259)

# Additions to Fiduciary Net Position:

Additions to the Fund's fiduciary net position were derived from member and employer contributions and net investment income. Member contributions increased by \$113,304, or 1.41% and employer contributions increased by \$1,099,961, or 4.65%, for fiscal year 2024. Member contributions increased by \$401,579 or 5.27% and employer contributions increased by \$868,128 or 3.81% for fiscal year 2023. The Fund experienced net investment income of \$85,334,808 and \$60,388,034 during the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

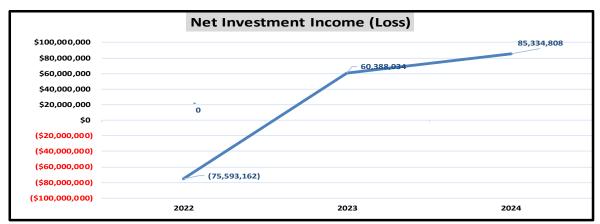
# **Additions to Fiduciary Net Position**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Member Contributions	\$ 8,133,570	\$ 8,020,266	\$ 7,618,687
Employer Contributions	24,753,637	23,653,676	22,785,548
Ad valorem taxes	13,548,166	12,335,379	11,785,523
Revenue sharing	320,126	319,879	319,666
Net investment income (loss)	85,334,808	60,388,034	(75,593,162)
Other additions	685,261	973,539	 1,498,472
Total additions	\$ 132,775,568	\$ 105,690,773	\$ (31,585,266)



# FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUND: (Continued)

Additions to Fiduciary Net Position: (Continued)

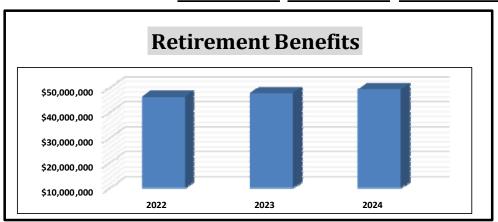


**Deductions from Fiduciary Net Position:** 

Deductions from fiduciary net position consist mainly of retirement, death and survivor benefits and administrative expenses. Deductions from fiduciary net position totaled \$58,615,399 for fiscal year 2024, which is an increase of \$3,337,944 from fiscal year 2023. The increase was primarily due to the increase in retirement and DROP benefits. Deductions from fiduciary net position totaled \$53,568,993 for fiscal year 2022.

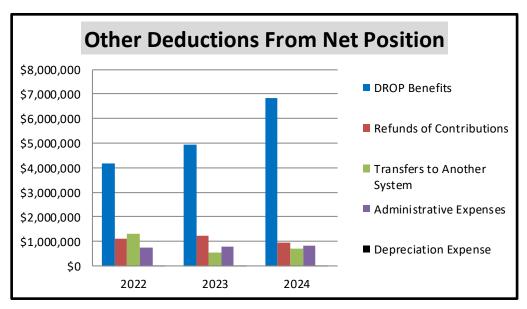
#### **Deductions from Fiduciary Net Position**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Retirement Benefits	\$ 49,272,111	\$ 47,763,567	\$ 46,244,503
DROP Benefits	6,833,852	4,930,354	4,166,738
Refunds of contributions	960,101	1,227,996	1,115,016
Transfers to another system	708,238	555,013	1,299,170
Administrative expenses	817,421	787,881	730,584
Depreciation	23,676	12,644	 12,982
Total deductions	\$ 58,615,399	\$ 55,277,455	\$ 53,568,993



# FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUND: (Continued)

<u>Deductions from Fiduciary Net Position</u>: (Continued)



#### **Investments**:

Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund is responsible for the prudent management of funds held in trust for the exclusive benefits of their members' pension benefits. Funds are invested to achieve maximum returns without exposing retirement assets to unacceptable risks. Total investments at June 30, 2024 amounted to \$814,848,988 as compared to \$740,707,951 at June 30, 2023, which is an increase of \$74,141,037, or 10.01%. Total investments at June 30, 2022 was \$690,085,286.

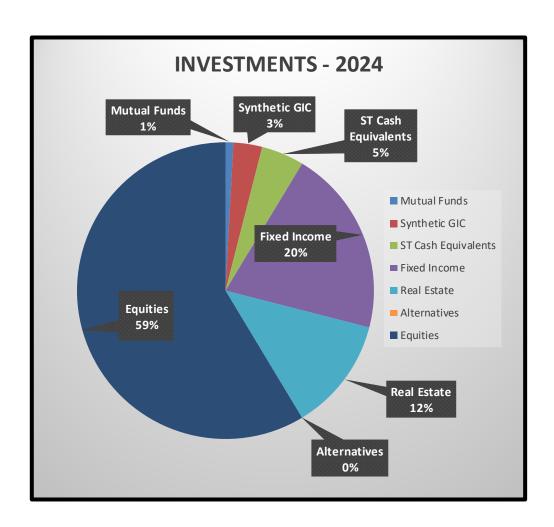
The Fund's investments at the end of the 2024, 2023, and 2022 fiscal years are as follows:

# **Investments**

The Stille lits			
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Investments - fair value:			
Short-term cash equivalents	\$ 37,942,043	\$ 10,757,908	\$ 11,433,343
Equities	477,679,208	427,437,984	371,610,768
Alternative investments	58,049	58,942	100,357
Fixed income	165,843,227	160,255,091	157,410,713
Real estate fund	100,799,785	107,072,852	115,829,960
Mutual funds	6,981,129	7,445,523	 7,234,990
	789,303,441	713,028,300	663,620,131
Investments - contract value:			
Synthetic guaranteed			
investment contract	25,545,547	27,679,651	26,465,155
Total investments	\$ 814,848,988	\$ 740,707,951	\$ 690,085,286

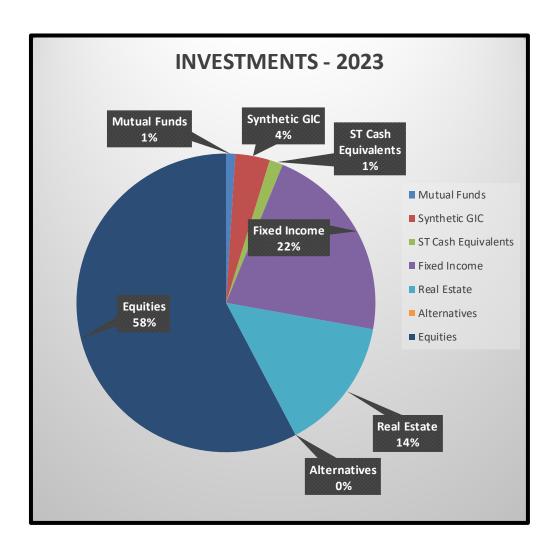
# FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUND: (Continued)

Investments: (Continued)



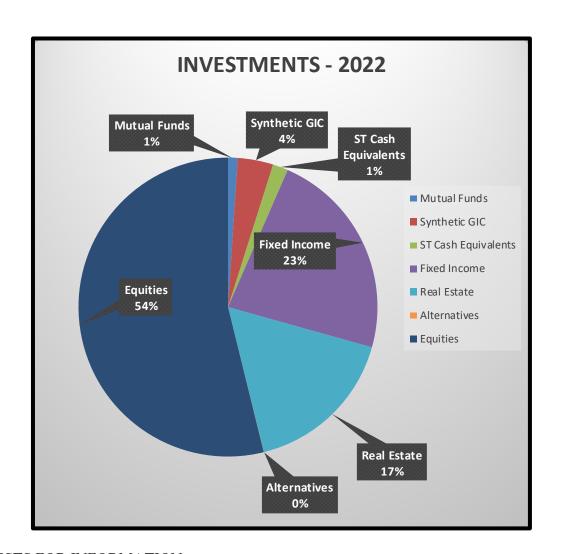
# FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUND: (Continued)

Investments: (Continued)



# FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUND: (Continued)

Investments: (Continued)



# **REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:**

Questions concerning any of the information provided or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Debbie Hudnall, Executive Director of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund, 10202 Jefferson Highway, Bldg. A., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809, (225) 293-1162.

# LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND STATEMENTS OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION <u>JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023</u>

# **ASSETS**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
CASH:		
In bank	\$ 1,191,440	\$ 1,154,829
RECEIVABLES:		
Member contributions	588,957	567,818
Employer contributions	1,777,792	1,670,870
Investment receivable	1,427,870	650,532
Accrued interest and dividends	583,037	387,462
Revenue sharing funds receivable	91,503	45,672
Miscellaneous receivables		5,973
Total receivables	4,469,159	3,328,327
INVESTMENTS AT FAIR VALUE:		
Short term cash equivalents	37,942,043	10,757,908
Equities	477,679,208	427,437,984
Fixed income	165,843,227	160,255,091
Real estate funds	100,799,785	107,072,852
Hedge fund	58,049	58,942
Mutual funds	6,981,129	7,445,523
Total investments at fair value	789,303,441	713,028,300
INVESTMENTS AT CONTRACT VALUE:		
Synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	25,545,547	27,679,651
Total investments at contract value	25,545,547	27,679,651
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	775,799	711,299
Total assets	\$ 821,285,386	\$ 745,902,406
LIABILITIES AND NET POSIT	TION	
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,306,715	\$ 1,286,697
Investment payable	2,162,540	959,636
Miscellaneous payables	8,560	8,671
Total liabilities	3,477,815	2,255,004
NET POSITION - RESTRICTED FOR PENSION BENEFITS	\$ 817,807,571	\$ 743,647,402
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>
ADDITIONS:			
Contributions:			
Member	\$ 8,133,570	\$	8,020,266
Employer	24,753,637		23,653,676
Ad valorem tax	13,548,166		12,335,379
Revenue sharing	 320,126		319,879
Total contributions	46,755,499		44,329,200
Investment income:			
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	80,587,965		56,854,413
Interest income	2,077,543		754,041
Dividend income	6,322,498		6,331,568
	88,988,006		63,940,022
Less investment expense:	 _		
Custodial fees	69,975		66,588
Money manager fees	3,448,223		3,350,400
Consultant fees	 135,000		135,000
	3,653,198		3,551,988
Net investment income	85,334,808		60,388,034
Other additions:			
Transfer fees collected	500		820
Refund pay back	90,865		45,070
Transfers from another system	494,124		763,639
Miscellaneous	99,772		164,010
Total other additions	685,261		973,539
Total additions	132,775,568		105,690,773
DEDUCTIONS:			
Annuity benefits	49,090,043		47,569,916
Disability benefits	182,068		193,651
Refund to terminated employees	960,101		1,227,996
DROP benefits	6,833,852		4,930,354
Transfer to another system	708,238		555,013
Reimbursement to affiliate for administrative expenses	510,000		498,000
Administrative expenses	307,421		289,881
Depreciation	23,676		12,644
Total deductions	58,615,399		55,277,455
NET INCREASE	 74,160,169	'	50,413,318
NET POSITION - RESTRICTED FOR PENSION BENEFITS:			
Beginning of year	743,647,402		693,234,084
END OF YEAR	\$ 817,807,571	\$	743,647,402

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (the Fund) was established and provided for by R.S. 11:1501 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (LRS). In accordance with this law, the Fund is administered by a Board of Trustees made up of 11 members composed of the president, first vice-president, treasurer, second vice-president, and immediate past president of the Clerks Association, one retired clerk elected by the Clerk's Association, three additional members elected by the Clerk's Association, a member of the House Committee on Retirement, appointed by the Speaker of the House Representatives or his designee, and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Retirement or his designee.

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the standards established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The financial statements include GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments and related standards*. This standard provides for inclusion of a management discussion and analysis as supplementary information and other changes.

The System's basic financial statements were prepared in conformity with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*. GASB Statement No. 67 established new standards of financial reporting for defined pension plans. Significant changes included an actuarial calculation of total and net pension liability, increased footnote disclosures regarding the pension liabilities and other related information, and provided for additional required supplementary information schedules.

# Basis of Accounting:

Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

#### **Accounting Policies:**

The Fund's significant accounting policies related to the following financial statement categories are summarized below:

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents:

Cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

#### Investments:

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 72 (GASB 72), investments are reported at fair value which is described as an exit price. GASB 72 requires a government to use valuation techniques that are appropriate under the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the

# 1. <u>SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES</u>: (Continued)

Accounting Policies: (Continued)

<u>Investments</u>: (Continued)

use of unobservable inputs. GASB 72 established a hierarchy of inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. That hierarchy has three levels. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 2 inputs are inputs – other than quoted prices – included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, whether directly or indirectly. Finally, Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs, such as management's assumption of the default rate among underlying mortgages of a mortgage-backed security.

GASB 72 requires disclosures to be made about fair value measurements within the level of fair value hierarchy and valuation techniques. These disclosures are organized by type of asset or liability. GASB 72 also requires additional disclosures regarding investments in certain entities that calculate net asset value per share (or its equivalent). These disclosures are located in Note 5.

Fair value of short-term investments approximates cost. Fair value of securities traded on a national or international exchange is calculated using the last reported sales price at current exchange rates. Fair value of mutual funds not traded on a national or international exchange is calculated using the net asset value reported by the mutual funds. Fair value of investments in partnerships is calculated as the Fund's percentage of ownership of the partner's capital reported by the partnership. The Fund invests in short-term highly liquid external investment pools. Shares in external investment pools are reported at cost value of the external investment pool which approximates fair value.

Synthetic Guaranteed Investment Contracts are carried at contract value as required by GASB Statement No. 53.

#### Accounts Receivable:

Accounts receivable is comprised of contributions due from employers and members. No allowance is provided for receivables from member Clerks of Court because, in the opinion of management, all such accounts are collectible.

#### Property and Equipment:

Land, building, furniture, and equipment are reported at historical cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method based on useful lives.

#### Revenue and Expenditures:

Employer and employee contributions are recognized in the period in which the employee is compensated for services performed.

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES: (Continued)

Accounting Policies: (Continued)

Revenue and Expenditures: (Continued)

Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan.

Interest income is recognized when earned and dividends are recognized at the declaration date.

Ad valorem taxes and revenue sharing monies are recognized in the year appropriated by the Legislature.

Expenditures are recognized in the period incurred.

#### Use of Estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The Fund utilizes various investment instruments, which by nature, are exposed to a variety of risk levels and risk types, such as interest rate risk, credit, and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term, and those changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of fiduciary net position.

# Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements:

In May 2020, the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs) which is effective for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. A SBITA is a contract that conveys control of the right to use another party's (a SBITA vendor) IT software, alone or in combination with tangible capital assets (with underlying IT assets), as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange like transaction. The statement established uniform accounting and financial reporting requirements for SBITAs; improved the comparability of governments' financial statements; and enhances the understandability, reliability, relevance, and consistence of information about SBITAs. The System has analyzed the provisions of GASB No. 96 and has concluded that there are no material contracts which qualify for adjustment or disclosure under the new statement. Therefore, no restatement of prior periods or cumulative effect adjustment recorded in the year of adoption, was considered necessary.

# 2. <u>PLAN DESCRIPTION</u>:

The Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund is the administrator of a costsharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plan. The Fund is a statewide retirement plan for the Clerk of the Supreme Court, each of the courts of appeal, each of the district courts, and each of the city and traffic courts in cities having a population in excess of four hundred thousand at the time of their entrance into the Fund. The Fund includes the employees of such clerks and the employees of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association.

As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, participating employers consisted of the following:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Parish Courts	63	63
Supreme Court	1	1
Circuit Courts of Appeals	5	5
City Courts of New Orleans	2	2
Civil Court of New Orleans	1	1
Criminal Court of New Orleans	1	1
Louisiana Clerks' of Court Association	1	1
Total Participating Employers	74	74

As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, plan membership consisted of the following:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Inactive plan members or beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	1,613	1,584
Inactive plan members entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	1,092	1,004
Active plan members	2,106	2,134
Total Plan Membership	<u>4,811</u>	<u>4,722</u>

Those employees considered eligible for membership to the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund include all regular employees who work more than an average of 20 hours per week. Members are vested after 12 years of service time.

#### **Retirement Benefits:**

A member or former member shall be eligible for regular retirement benefits upon attaining 12 or more years of credited service, attaining the age of 55 years (age 60 if hired on or after January 1, 2011), and terminating employment. Regular retirement benefits, payable monthly for life, is equal to 3% percent of the member's monthly average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service, not to exceed 100% of the monthly average final compensation. The retirement benefit accrual rate is increased to 3½% for all service credit accrued after June 30, 1999 (for members hired prior to January 1, 2011).

# 2. <u>PLAN DESCRIPTION</u>: (Continued)

#### Retirement Benefits: (Continued)

For members hired before July 1, 2006 and who retire prior to January 1, 2011, monthly average final compensation is based on the highest 36 consecutive months, with a limit increase of 10% in each of the last three years of measurement. For members hired after July 1, 2006, monthly average final compensation is based on the highest compensated 60 consecutive months, or successive joined months if service was interrupted, with a limit increase of 10% in each of the last five years of measurement. For members who were employed prior to July 1, 2006 and who retire after December 31, 2010, the period of final average compensation is 36 months plus the number of whole months elapsed since January 1, 2011, not to exceed 60 months.

#### Disability Benefits:

Disability benefits are awarded to active members who are totally and permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty or to active members with 10 or more years of credible service who are totally disabled due to any cause. A member who is officially certified as totally or permanently disabled by the State Medical Disability Board will be paid monthly disability retirement benefits equal to the greater of forty percent of their monthly average final compensation or 75% of their monthly regular retirement benefit computed as per R.S. 11:1521 (C).

#### Survivor Benefits:

Upon the death of any active contributing member with less than five years of credited service, his/her accumulated contributions are paid to his/her designated beneficiary. Upon the death of any active contributing member with five or more years of credited service, automatic option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse. These benefits are based on the retirement benefits accrued at the member's date of death with option factors used as if the member had continued in service to earliest normal retirement age. Benefit payments are to commence on the date a member would have first become eligible for normal retirement assuming continued service until that time. In lieu of a deferred survivor benefit, the surviving spouse may elect benefits payable immediately with benefits reduced ¼ of 1% for each month by which payments commence in advance of member's earliest normal retirement age. If a member has no surviving spouse, the surviving minor children under 18 or disabled children shall be paid ½ of the member's accrued retirement benefit in equal shares. Upon the death of any former member with less than 12 years of service, the designated beneficiary may receive his/her accumulated contributions. Upon the death of any former member with 12 or more years of service, automatic option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse with payments to commence on the member's retirement eligibility date. In lieu of periodic payments, the surviving spouse or children may receive a refund of the member's accumulated contributions.

# 2. <u>PLAN DESCRIPTION</u>: (Continued)

#### Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP):

In lieu of terminating employment and accepting a service retirement allowance, any member of the Fund who is eligible for a service retirement allowance may elect to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for up to 36 months and defer the receipt of benefits. Upon commencement of participation in the plan, active membership in the Fund terminates and the participant's contributions cease; however, employer contributions continue. Compensation and creditable service remain as they existed on the effective date of commencement of participation in the plan. The monthly retirement benefits that would have been payable, had the member elected to cease employment and receive a service retirement allowance, are paid into the DROP account. Upon termination of employment at the end of the specified period of participation, a participant in the program may receive, at his option, a lump sum payment from the DROP account equal to the payments to the account or a true annuity based upon his account (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees). In addition, the member receives the monthly benefits that were paid into the DROP fund during his period of participation.

If employment is not terminated at the end of the participation period, payments into the account cease and the member resumes active contributing membership in the Fund. Interest is paid on DROP account balances for members who complete their DROP participation but do not terminate employment. The interest earnings are based on the actual rate of return on funds in such accounts. These interest accruals cease upon termination of employment. Upon termination, the member receives a lump sum payment from the DROP fund equal to the payments made to that fund on his behalf or a true annuity based in his account (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees). The monthly benefit payments that were being paid into the DROP fund are paid to the retiree and an additional benefit based on his additional service rendered since termination of DROP participation is calculated using the normal method of benefit computation. Prior to January 1, 2011, the average compensation used to calculate the additional benefit is that used to calculate the original benefit unless his period of additional service is at least 36 months. Effective January 1, 2011, the average compensation for members whose additional service is less than 36 months is equal to the lessor amount used to calculate the original benefit or the compensation earned in the period of additional service divided by the number of months of additional service. For former DROP participants who retire after December 30, 2010, the period used to determine final average compensation for post-DROP service is 36 months plus the number of whole months elapsed from January 1, 2011 to the date of DROP entry. In no event can the entire monthly benefit amount paid to the retiree exceed 100% of the average compensation used to compute the additional benefit. If a participant dies during the period of participation in the program, a lump sum payment equal to his account balance is paid to his named beneficiary or, if none, to his estate.

# 2. <u>PLAN DESCRIPTION</u>: (Continued)

#### Cost of Living Increases (COLAs):

The Board of Trustees is authorized to grant retired members and widows of members who have been retired for at least one full calendar year an annual cost of 2.5% of their benefit (not to exceed \$40 per month), and all retired members and widows who are 65 years of age or older a 2% increase in their original benefit (or their benefit as of October 1, 1977, if they retired prior to that time). In order to grant the 2.5% COLA, the increase in the consumer price index must have exceeded 3% since the last COLA granted. In order for the Board to grant either of these increases, the Fund must meet certain other criteria as detailed in the Louisiana statute relating to funding status. In lieu of granting the above cost of living increases, Louisiana statutes allow the Board to grant a cost of living increase where the benefits shall be calculated using the number of years of service at retirement or at death plus the number of years since retirement or death multiplied by the cost of living amount which cannot exceed \$1. Effective January 1, 2021, the Fund granted a COLA to their retirees.

#### 3. CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESERVES:

#### Contributions:

Contributions for all members are established by state statute at 8.25% of earnable compensation. The contribution is deducted from the member's salary and remitted by the participating parish or court.

According to state statute, contributions for all employers are actuarially determined each year. The actuarially determined employer contribution rate for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 was 21.55% and 21.79%, respectively. The actual employer contribution rate for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 was 23.00% and 22.25%, respectively.

In accordance with state statute the Fund also receives ½ of 1% of ad valorem taxes collected by each parish and state revenue sharing funds. These additional sources of income are used as additional employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities.

Administrative costs of the Fund are financed through employer contributions.

Upon withdrawal from service, members not entitled to a retirement allowance are paid a refund of accumulated contributions upon request. Receipt of such a refund cancels all accrued rights in the Fund.

# 3. <u>CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESERVES</u>: (Continued)

#### Reserves:

Use of the term "reserve" by the Fund indicates that a portion of the fund balance is legally restricted for a specific future use. The nature and purpose of these reserves are explained below:

#### A) Annuity Savings Fund:

The Annuity Savings Fund is credited with contributions made by members of the Fund. When a member terminates his service or upon his death before qualifying for a benefit, the refund of his contributions is made from this fund. If a member dies and there is a survivor who is eligible for a benefit, the amount of the member's accumulated contributions is transferred from the Annuity Savings Fund to the Annuity Reserve Fund. When a member retires, the amount of his accumulated contributions is transferred to the Annuity Reserve Fund to provide part of the benefits payable. The Annuity Savings Fund balance as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$73,218,034 and \$70,572,029, respectively.

#### B) Pension Accumulation Fund:

The Pension Accumulation Fund consists of contributions paid by employers, interest earned on investments and any other income not covered by other accounts. This fund is charged annually with an amount, determined by the actuary, to be transferred to the Annuity Reserve Fund to fund retirement benefits for existing recipients. It is also relieved when expenditures are not covered by other accounts. The Pension Accumulation Fund balance as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$187,118,507 and \$130,282,955, respectively.

# C) Annuity Reserve Fund:

The Annuity Reserve Fund consists of the reserves for all pensions, excluding cost-of-living increases, granted to members and is the fund from which such pensions and annuities are paid. Survivors of deceased beneficiaries also receive benefits from this fund. The Annuity Reserve Fund balance as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$504,454,448 and \$486,831,477, respectively.

#### D) <u>Deferred Retirement Option Account:</u>

The Deferred Retirement Option Account was created by state law and consists of the reserves for all members who upon eligibility elect to deposit into this account an amount equal to the member's monthly benefit if he had retired. A member can only participate in the program for three years, at which time the member may receive his benefits in a lump sum payment or by a true annuity. The Deferred Retirement Option Account balance as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$45,993,458 and \$46,031,683, respectively.

# 3. <u>CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESERVES</u>: (Continued)

Reserves: (Continued)

# E) Funding Deposit Account:

The Funding Deposit Account was created by state law and consists of excess contribution collected by the Fund. The excess funds earn interest at the board approved actuarial valuation rate and are credited to the fund at least once a year. These funds are due to the Fund freezing the employer rate at a higher rate than actuarially required. The excess funds can be used for the following purposes: (1) reduce the unfunded accrued liability, (2) reduce the present value of future normal, and/or (3) pay all or a portion of any future net direct employer contributions or (4) to provide for cost of living increases, in accordance with applicable law. The Funding Deposit Account balance as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$7,023,124 and \$9,929,258, respectively.

#### 4. NET PENSION LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS:

Components of net pension liability for the Fund's employers determined in accordance with GASB No. 67 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 is as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total Pension Liability	\$ 984,190,431	\$ 958,771,978
Plan Fiduciary Net Position	817,807,571	743,647,402
Employers' Net Pension Liability	\$ <u>166,382,860</u>	\$ <u>215,124,576</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a % of		
the Total Pension Liability	83.09%	77.56%

The required Schedules of Employers' Net Pension Liability located in required supplementary information presents multi-year trend information regarding whether the plan fiduciary net positions are increasing or decreasing over time relative to the total pension liability. The total pension liability as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 is based on actuarial valuations for the same period, updated using generally accepted actuarial procedures.

Actuarial valuations involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment mortality and future salary increases. Actuarially determined amounts regarding the net pension liability are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations, and new estimates are made about the future.

The actuarial assumptions used in the valuations (excluding mortality) were based on actuarial funding valuation and the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019 for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, unless otherwise specified. In cases where benefits structures were changed after the experience study period, assumptions were based on estimates of future experiences.

# 4. <u>NET PENSION LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS</u>: (Continued)

Information on the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total net pension liability as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 is as follows:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	6.55%	6.55%
Inflation Rate	2.40%	2.40%
Estimated remaining service lives	5 years	5 years
Salary Increases	1-5 years of service - 6.2% 5 years or more - 5%	1-5 years of service - 6.2% 5 years or more - 5%
Mortality Rate - Active Members	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans multiplied by 120%. Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans multiplied by 120%. Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale
Mortality Rate - Annuitant and Beneficiary	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans multiplied by 120%. Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans multiplied by 120%. Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale
Cost of Living Adjustments	The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the Fund and includes previously granted cost of living increases. The present values do not include provisions for potential future increases not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees.	The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the Fund and includes previously granted cost of living increases. The present values do not include provisions for potential future increases not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees.

The long-term expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimates ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The long term expected rate of return was 5.81% for each of the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 are summarized in the following tables:

# 4. <u>NET PENSION LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS</u>: (Continued)

		2024		
	Target Asset	Long-Term Expected		
Asset Class	Allocation	Real Rate of Return		
Fixed Income:				
Domestic Bonds	30.0%	0.59%		
International Bonds	30.070	0.22%		
Domestic Equity	35.0%	2.62%		
International Equity	20.0%	1.70%		
Real Estate	<u>15.0%</u>	0.68%		
System Total	100.0%	5.81%		
Inflation		<u>2.50%</u>		
Expected Arithmetic Return		<u>8.31%</u>		
	2023			
		2023		
	Target Asset	2023  Long-Term Expected		
Asset Class	Target Asset Allocation			
Asset Class Fixed Income:	=	Long-Term Expected		
	Allocation	Long-Term Expected		
Fixed Income:	=	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return		
Fixed Income: Domestic Bonds	Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return 0.59%		
Fixed Income: Domestic Bonds International Bonds	Allocation 30.0%	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return  0.59% 0.22%		
Fixed Income: Domestic Bonds International Bonds Domestic Equity	Allocation 30.0% 35.0%	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return  0.59% 0.22% 2.62%		
Fixed Income: Domestic Bonds International Bonds Domestic Equity International Equity	Allocation 30.0% 35.0% 20.0%	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return  0.59% 0.22% 2.62% 1.70%		
Fixed Income: Domestic Bonds International Bonds Domestic Equity International Equity Real Estate	Allocation  30.0%  35.0%  20.0%  15.0%	Long-Term Expected  Real Rate of Return  0.59% 0.22% 2.62% 1.70% 0.68%		

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.55% for each of the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at current contribution rates, and that contributions from participating employers and non-employer contributing entities will be made at actuarially determined contribution rates approved by the Board of Trustees and the Public Retirement System's Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) taking into consideration the recommendation of the Fund's actuary. Based on these assumptions, the Fund's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

In accordance with GASB 67, regarding the disclosure of the sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate, the following presents the net pension liability of the participating employers calculated using the discount rate, as well as what the employers' net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate.

# 4. <u>NET PENSION LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS</u>: (Continued)

	Changes in Discount Rate				
		Current			
	1%	Discount	1%		
	Decrease	Rate	Increase		
	<u>5.55%</u>	<u>6.55%</u>	<u>7.55%</u>		
2024 Net Pension Liabilty	\$ 274,339,899	\$ 166,382,860	\$ 75,320,002		
	1%	Discount	1%		
	Decrease	Rate	Increase		
	<u>5.55%</u>	<u>6.55%</u>	<u>7.55%</u>		
2023 Net Pension Liabilty	\$ 321,108,825	\$ 215,124,576	\$ 125,787,913		

# 5. DEPOSITS, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS:

Following are the components of the Fund's deposits, cash equivalents, and investments at June 30, 2024 and 2023:

	<u>2024</u>	2023
Deposits (bank balance)	\$ 1,209,555	\$ 1,223,374
Cash equivalents	37,942,043	10,757,908
Investments	776,906,945	729,950,043
	\$ 816,058,543	\$ 741,931,325

#### Deposits:

The Fund's bank deposits were entirely covered by federal depository insurance and securities pledged. The pledged securities are held in joint custody with the Fund's bank.

#### <u>Cash Equivalents</u>:

The Fund invested in cash equivalents at June 30, 2024 and 2023 in the amount of \$37,942,043 and \$10,757,908, respectively. Cash equivalents in the amount of \$6,898,952 and \$5,212,443 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, consist of federated U.S. treasury cash reserves held in the nominee name. Cash equivalents at June 30, 2024 and 2023 in the amount of \$31,043,091 and \$5,545,465, respectively, consist of governmental pooled investments. The funds are managed by the Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP), held by a custodial bank and are in the name of the Fund.

# 5. <u>DEPOSITS, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS</u>: (Continued)

Cash Equivalents: (Continued)

LAMP is administered by LAMP, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Only local government entities having contracted to participate in LAMP have an investment interest in its pool of assets. The primary objective of LAMP is to provide a safe environment for the placement of public funds in short-term, high-quality investments. The LAMP portfolio includes only securities and other obligations in which local governments in Louisiana are authorized to invest in accordance with LA-RS 33:2955. LAMP is rated AAAm by Standard & Poor's.

The dollar weighted average portfolio maturity of LAMP assets is restricted to not more than 90 days, and consists of no securities with a maturity in excess of 361 days. LAMP is designed to be highly liquid to give its participants immediate access to their account balances. The investments in LAMP are stated at fair value based on quoted market rates. The fair value is determined on a weekly basis by LAMP and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the value of the pool share.

LAMP, Inc. is subject to the regulatory oversight of the state treasurer and the Board of Directors. LAMP is not registered with the SEC as an investment company.

#### **Investments:**

Statutes authorize the Fund to invest under the Prudent-Man Rule. The Prudent-Man Rule shall require each fiduciary of a retirement system and each board of trustees acting collectively on behalf of the Fund to act with care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances prevailing that a prudent institutional investor acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims. Notwithstanding the Prudent-Man Rule, the Fund shall invest 60% of the total portfolio in equities but in no event shall equities exceed sixty-five percent of the total portfolio. Also, at least 10% of the equity allocation must remain indexed to the S&P 500 index.

The Fund's policy regarding investments is established and amended by the Fund's Board. The Fund shall be managed at all times in accordance with Louisiana statues and any other applicable law. The policy states that the investment of the Fund's assets shall be for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits for the participants and their beneficiaries and paying the Fund's administrative expenses. The Fund's investment shall be prudently selected and properly diversified so as to minimize the risk of large losses.

#### Synthetic Guaranteed Investment Contract:

The Fund provides a fully benefit-responsive Synthetic Guaranteed Investment Contract option for members of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan. This investment consists of two parts:

# 5. <u>DEPOSITS, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS</u>: (Continued)

Synthetic Guaranteed Investment Contract: (Continued)

an asset owned directly by the Fund and a wrap contract providing book value protection for participant withdrawals prior to maturity. The investment objective of this investment is to protect members from loss of their original investment and to provide a competitive interest rate. This investment is reported at contract value in the amount of \$25,545,547 and \$27,679,651 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The market value is unknown as of June 30, 2024 and 2023.

#### Fair Value Disclosures:

Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The Fund has the following recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively:

		Fair Value Measurements Using						
			Quoted Prices in Active Markets		Significant Other Observable Inputs		Significant Unobservable	
	 6/30/2024		(Level 1)		(Level 2)	Inputs	(Level 3)	
Investments by Fair Value Level:	 				_			
Cash Equivalents	\$ 37,942,043	\$	-	\$	37,942,043	\$	-	
Fixed Income:								
U.S. Government Obligations	17,871,733		-		17,871,733		-	
Corporate Bonds	22,430,110		-		22,430,110		-	
Total Fixed Income	40,301,843				40,301,843			
Equity Securities:								
Large Cap	137,151,469		137,151,469		-		-	
Small Cap	 80,473,203		80,473,203					
Total Equity Securities	217,624,672		217,624,672		-			
Mutual funds	 6,981,129		6,981,129					
Total Investments at								
Fair Value Level	\$ 302,849,687	\$	224,605,801	\$	78,243,886	\$		

Investments measured at the Net Asset Value (NAV):

Fixed Income:	
Commingled Pools	\$ 125,541,384
Domestic Equity Fund	94,070,050
International Equity Funds	165,984,486
Alternative Investments:	
Hedge Fund	58,049
Real Estate Funds	100,799,785
Total Investments at NAV	\$ 486,453,754
Total Investments at Fair Value	\$ 789,303,441

# 5. <u>DEPOSITS, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS</u>: (Continued)

Fair Value Disclosures: (Continued)

			Fair Value Measurements Using					
			Quoted Prices in		Sign	nificant Other	Sig	nificant
			Ac	tive Markets	Obse	ervable Inputs	Unob	servable
		6/30/2023		(Level 1)		(Level 2)	Inputs	(Level 3)
Investments by Fair Value Level:					<u> </u>			
Cash Equivalents	\$	10,757,908	\$	-	\$	10,757,908	\$	-
Fixed Income:								
U.S. Government Obligations		15,882,991		-		15,882,991		-
Corporate Bonds		23,957,911		-		23,957,911		-
Total Fixed Income		39,840,902		-		39,840,902		
Equity Securities:								
Large Cap		123,423,087		123,423,087		-		-
Small Cap		73,573,388		73,573,388		_		-
Total Equity Securities		196,996,475		196,996,475				
Mutual funds		7,445,523		7,445,523		<u>-</u>		
Total Investments at Fair Value Level	\$	255,040,808	\$	204,441,998	\$	50,598,810	\$	
Investments measured at the Net Asset	Value	(NAV):						
Fixed Income:								
Commingled Pools	\$	120,414,189						
Domestic Equity Fund		75,532,129						
International Equity Funds		154,909,380						
Alternative Investments:								
Hedge Fund		58,942						
Real Estate Funds		107,072,852						
Total Investments at NAV	\$	457,987,492						
Total Investments at Fair Value	\$	713,028,300						

Equity securities classified in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy are valued using prices quoted in active markets for those securities. Cash equivalents and debt investments classified in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy are valued using a matrix pricing technique. Matrix pricing is used to value securities based on the securities' relationship to benchmark quoted prices.

# 5. <u>DEPOSITS, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS</u>: (Continued)

Fair Value Disclosures: (Continued)

The unfunded commitments and redemption terms for investments measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share (or its equivalents) as of June 30, 2024 is presented in the following table:

			Redepmtion	Redemption
	Fair Value	Unfunded	Frequency	Notice
	 2024	Commitments	(If Currenty Eligible)	Period
Commingled Pools	\$ 125,541,384	-	Daily	5 days
Domestic Equity Fund	94,070,050	-	Daily	5 days
International Equity Funds	165,984,486	-	Daily, Monthly	2 - 30 days
Hedge Fund	58,049	-	Quarterly	95 days
Real Estate Funds	 100,799,785	-	Quarterly	90 days
Total Investments at NAV	\$ 486,453,754			

The unfunded commitments and redemption terms for investments measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share (or its equivalents) as of June 30, 2023 is presented in the following table.

			Redepmtion	Redemption
	Fair Value	Unfunded	Frequency	Notice
	2023	Commitments	(If Currenty Eligible)	Period
Commingled Pools	\$ 120,414,189	-	Daily	5 days
Domestic Equity Fund	75,532,129	-	Daily	5 days
International Equity Funds	154,909,380	-	Daily, Monthly	2 - 30 days
Hedge Fund	58,942	-	Quarterly	95 days
Real Estate Funds	107,072,852	-	Quarterly	90 days
Total Investments at NAV	\$ 457,987,492			

#### **Comingled Pools:**

<u>Pyramis Core Plus</u> - has a strategy with a duration neutral approach focused on bottom-up, fundamental credit analysis. It is a benchmark aware strategy with the ability to add value through constrained allocations to a broad opportunity set of "plus" sectors.

<u>Pyramis Tactical Fund</u> - has a flexible strategy with ability to add value through managing duration and allowing a broader allowable opportunity set than more traditional, benchmark constrained managers resulting in a true "best idea" fixed income portfolio.

#### Domestic Equity Fund:

This fund consists of the Spartan S&P 500 Index fund which seeks to provide investment results that correspond to the total return performance of common stocks publicly traded in the United States. The fund invests 80% of its assets in common stocks included in the S&P 500 Index, which broadly represents the performance of common stocks publicly traded in the United States.

# 5. <u>DEPOSITS, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS</u>: (Continued)

<u>Fair Value Disclosures</u>: (Continued)

#### Hedge Funds:

The objective of the hedge fund is to manage a portfolio of alternative or non-traditional managers that will seek to earn above-average, risk-adjusted, long-term returns.

The hedge fund consisted of the following:

<u>Summit Solutions fund</u> - is diversified global multi-strategy hedge fund of funds. The product invests in 15-20 direct hedge fund strategies across different sub-styles typically. The portfolio is designed to target superior risk-adjusted returns with an emphasis on capital preservation. The redemption notice period is 95 days with quarterly redemptions available.

#### **International Equity Funds:**

<u>LSV Fund</u> - is country neutral to the index and value is added through stock selection. The portfolio decision-making process is primarily quantitative and driven by a proprietary model that consists of three groups of factors: value multiples (cash flow-to-price and book-to-market), long-term past performance (changes in stock price and earnings over the previous five years; poor performance ranked highly), and price momentum factors (near-term performance expectations; is the market beginning to change its assessment). At least 65% of the model will consist of value-related factors. The redemption notice period is seven days with monthly redemptions available.

<u>TS&W</u> - this portfolio utilizes a bottom-up, value-driven, risk-managed approach to international investing and invests in a diversified portfolio of common stocks of primarily non-U.S. issuer. The redemption notice period is two days with daily redemptions available.

<u>Segall Bryant & Hamill</u> - uses disciplined, valuation-based, quantitative approach targeting companies with improving fundamentals and price momentum. The strategy targets securities deemed attractive on valuation and momentum. The redemption notice period is 30 days with monthly redemptions available.

<u>Driehaus International Small Cap Fund</u> - this portfolio utilizes a bottom-up, growth oriented, risk managed approach to international investing and invests in a diversified portfolio of small company common stocks of primarily non-U.S. issuers. Holdings will be a blend of companies in both developed and emerging markets. The redemption notice period is two days with daily redemptions available.

<u>WCM</u> – this portfolio utilizes a bottom-up approach that seeks to identify companies with attractive fundamentals, such as long-term growth in revenue, earnings and show a high probability for superior future growth. The fund invests primarily in equity securities of non-U.S. companies. The fund may invest in companies of any size but generally focuses on companies with large capitalization.

# 5. <u>DEPOSITS, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS</u>: (Continued)

Fair Value Disclosures: (Continued)

#### Real Estate Funds:

<u>Clarion (Core Real Estate)</u> – this fund is an open-ended, private perpetual life comingled investment fund. The investment strategy is diversified primarily institutional quality real estate assets and real estate-related investments within the United States. Clarion seeks to actively manage investments through continuous examination of real estate cycles, national and regional market fundamentals, and property characteristics to emphasize sectors of relative value.

<u>Principal (Enhanced Property Fund)</u> – this is an open-end, commingled fund which pursues nationally diverse portfolio of high-quality real estate assets. The fund pursues an enhanced or core plus investment strategy and seeks to provide market competitive total returns.

<u>IFM (Global Infrastructure Fund)</u> – this fund manages investments in infrastructure on behalf of more than 574 institutional investors, investing together in this long-term asset class. The fund targets core infrastructure in developed markets globally on behalf of like-minded institutions such as superannuation and pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, insurers, endowments, foundations and universities.

# Money-Weighted Rate of Return:

During the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, the annual money-weighted rate of return on the Fund's investments, net of investment expense, was 12.56% and 9.49%, respectively. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

#### Concentration of Credit Risk:

Concentration of credit risk is defined as the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the Fund's investment in a single issuer.

The Fund's investment policy states that no more than 30% of the equity portfolio market value may be invested in any one economic sector. Generally, the equity holdings in any single corporation shall not exceed 5% of the market value of the equity portfolio. In addition, no more than 7% of any fixed income portfolio based on market value at the time of purchase may be invested in any one issuer's securities (exclusive of issues of the U.S. Treasury or other Federal Agencies). At June 30, 2024 and 2023, there were no investment holdings that exceeded the Fund's concentration of credit risk investment policy.

# 5. <u>DEPOSITS, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS</u>: (Continued)

#### Concentration of Credit Risk: (Continued)

The investment policy states that the allocation to international equities will be made by investing in a commingled or mutual fund. Exposure to emerging market countries within developed international funds should not exceed 20% of the portfolio. In addition, investments in international large cap equity, international small cap equity and emerging markets cannot exceed 15%, 10%, and 7.5%, respectively, of the portfolio. The Fund is in compliance with the investment policy limits of emerging market countries.

The Fund has no investments of any single organization (other than those issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government) that represents 5% or more of the Fund's fiduciary net position, nor does the Fund hold more than 5% of any corporation's stock.

# **Custodial Credit Risk**:

Custodial credit risk is defined as the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Fund will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Fund is not exposed to custodial credit risk at June 30, 2024 and 2023 for investments in the amount of \$807,950,036 and \$735,495,508, respectively, since these investments are in the name of the Fund. The Fund was exposed to custodial credit risk in the amount of \$6,898,952 and \$5,212,443 at June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, as these funds are held in nominee name and not in the name of the Fund. The Fund has no formal investment policy regarding custodial credit risk.

#### Interest Rate Risk and Credit Risk:

Interest rate risk is defined as the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Fund has no formal policy on interest rate risk.

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. The Fund's policy regarding credit risk states that fixed income securities shall be limited to those with an S&P/Moody's rating of BBB/Baa or better.

At June 30, 2024, the Fund had the following investments subject to interest rate risk and credit risk:

	Fair		Average
<u>Investments in Fixed Income Funds</u>	<u>Value</u>	Rating	<u>Maturity</u>
Pyramis Core Commingled Fund	\$83,217,910	AA-	10.28 years
Pyramis Tactical Plus Commingled Bond Pool	\$42,323,474	A+	13.88 years

# 5. <u>DEPOSITS, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS</u>: (Continued)

#### Interest Rate Risk and Credit Risk: (Continued)

# Fixed Income Investments - Interest Rate Risk

	Total	<1 yr	1-5 yrs	5-10yrs	>10 yrs
US Treasury	\$ 2,728,250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,728,250
US Govt Obligations	15,143,483	-	-	1,410,061	13,733,422
Corporate Bonds	22,430,110	2,914,071	7,458,408	6,610,327	5,447,304
Total	\$ 40,301,843	\$ 2,914,071	\$ 7,458,408	\$ 8,020,388	\$ 21,908,976

# Fixed Income Investments - Credit Risk:

	US	US Govt Agency		Corporate			
		Obligations		Bonds	Total		
A+	\$	-	\$	1,310,525	\$	1,310,525	
A		-		4,369,272		4,369,272	
A-		-		5,172,904		5,172,904	
AA+		978,468		1,090,632		2,069,100	
AA		-		992,880		992,880	
BBB+		-		7,275,073		7,275,073	
BBB		-		1,718,810		1,718,810	
NR		16,893,265		500,014		17,393,279	
Total	\$	17,871,733	\$	22,430,110	\$	40,301,843	

At June 30, 2023, the Fund had the following investments subject to interest rate risk and credit risk:

	Fair		Average
Investments in Fixed Income Funds	<u>Value</u>	Rating	<b>Maturity</b>
Pyramis Core Commingled Fund	\$79,701,154	A+	10.45 years
Pyramis Tactical Plus Commingled Bond Pool	\$40,713,035	A	13.62 years
Fixed Income Investments - Interest Rate Risk			
Total /1 xm	1 5 xmc	5 10xmc	>10 xmc

	Total	<1 yr	1-5 yrs	5-10yrs	>10 yrs
US Treasury	\$ 982,340	\$ 982,340	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
US Govt Obligations	14,900,651	-	-	1,530,013	13,370,638
Corporate Bonds	23,957,911	749,445	10,670,708	5,667,945	6,869,813
Total	\$ 39,840,902	\$ 1,731,785	\$ 10,670,708	\$ 7,197,958	\$ 20,240,451

# 5. <u>DEPOSITS, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS</u>: (Continued)

<u>Interest Rate Risk and Credit Risk</u>: (Continued)

Fixed Income Investments - Credit Risk: (Continued)

	Corporate						
	US Treasury			Bonds		Total	
A+	\$	-	\$	1,300,900	\$	1,300,900	
A		-		2,540,889		2,540,889	
A-		-		5,334,348		5,334,348	
AA+		959,949		1,118,304		2,078,253	
AA		-		1,007,920		1,007,920	
BBB+		-		10,531,805		10,531,805	
BBB		-		2,123,745		2,123,745	
NR		14,923,042				14,923,042	
Total	\$	15,882,991	\$	23,957,911	\$	39,840,902	

# 6. <u>RELATED PARTIES</u>:

The Fund's Board of Trustees includes five trustees from the Clerks of Court Association (Association) and one additional trustee elected by the Association. The Association also appoints the board members of the Clerks of Court Insurance Trust (Insurance Trust). The Fund, Association and Insurance Trust share employees and office space.

The Fund leases a portion of their building to the Association and Insurance Trust. Rental income for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$33,000 and \$32,700, respectively. There is no formal lease between the related parties.

The Fund shares equipment and other office expenses with the Association and Insurance Trust. Most of the expenses, including the salaries of employees of all three funds, are paid out of the Association. The Fund reimbursed the Association \$510,000 and \$498,000 for shared expenses for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

#### LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

#### 7. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Changes in property and equipment for the year ended June 30, 2024 are as follows:

	07/01/23	<u>07/01/23</u> <u>Additions</u>		06/30/24
Land	\$ 284,023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 284,023
Office Building	494,086	41,809	-	535,895
Office Equipment	16,343	-	-	16,343
Furniture & Fixtures	80,674	44,547	(24,265)	100,956
Software	28,999	58,247	(29,000)	58,246
Subtotal	904,125	144,603	(53,265)	995,463
Accumulated Depreciation	(249,253)	(23,676)	53,265	(219,664)
Deposit on equipment	23,777	18,032	(41,809)	-
Construction in progress	32,650	16,667	(49,317)	
Net Property and Equipment	\$ 711,299	\$ 155,626	\$ (91,126)	\$ 775,799

Changes in property and equipment for the year ended June 30, 2023 are as follows:

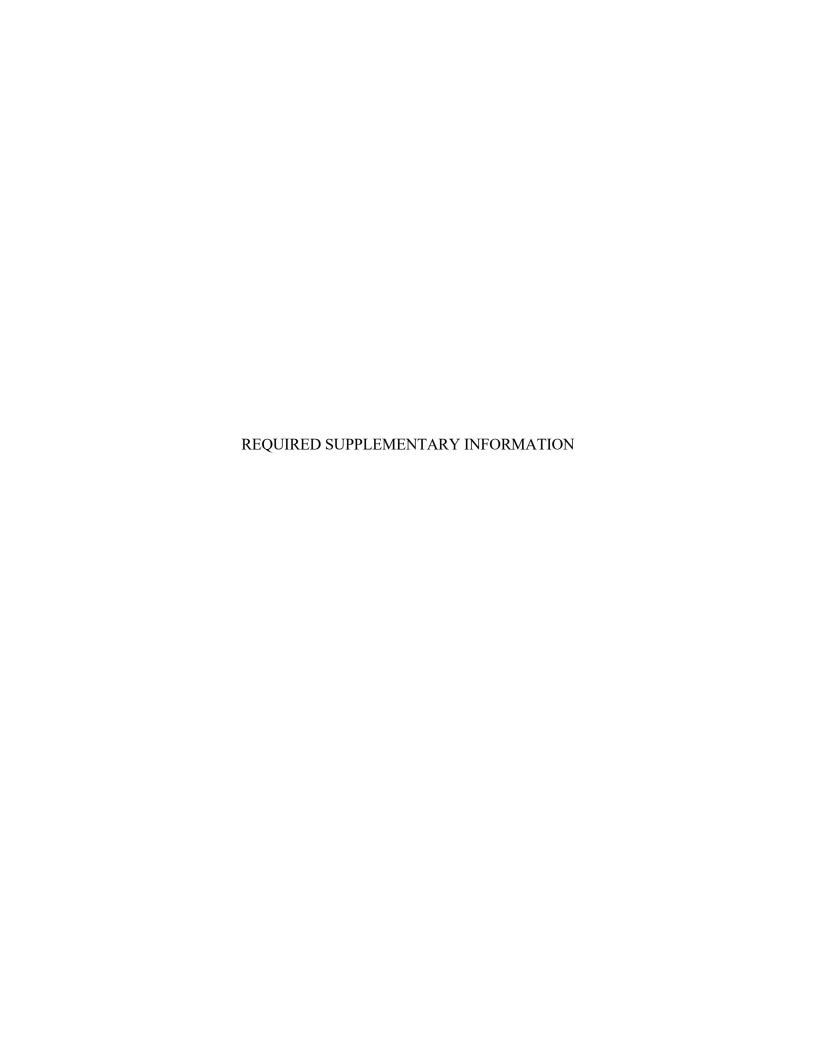
	<u>07/01/22</u> <u>Additions</u>		<u>Deletions</u>	06/30/23
Land	\$ 284,023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 284,023
Office Building	494,086	-	-	494,086
Office Equipment	16,343	-	-	16,343
Furniture & Fixtures	80,674	-	-	80,674
Software	28,999			28,999
Subtotal	904,125	-	-	904,125
Accumulated Depreciation	(236,609)	(12,644)	-	(249,253)
Deposit on equipment	22,014	1,763	-	23,777
Construction in progress		32,650		32,650
Net Property and Equipment	\$ 689,530	\$ 21,769	\$ -	\$ 711,299

During the year ended June 30, 2023, the Fund began working with a third-party company to create retirement software that is to be used by the Fund. The project was completed during the year ended June 30, 2024 and the cost was capitalized.

Depreciation expense for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$23,676 and \$12,644, respectively.

#### 8. <u>TAX QUALIFICATION</u>:

The Fund is a tax-qualified plan under IRS Code Section 401(a).



## LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES OF CHANGES IN NET PENSION LIABILITY FOR THE TEN YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	2024	2023	2022
Total Pension Liability:	<del></del>	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Service Cost	\$ 18,049,141	\$ 17,225,002	\$ 17,246,407
Interest	62,141,770	60,682,849	59,172,840
Changes of benefit terms	6,284,902	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	(3,968,319)	(1,136,613)	(894,018)
Changes of assumptions	-	-	-
Retirement benefits	(56,105,963)	(52,693,921)	(50,411,241)
Refunds of member contributions	(960,101)	(1,227,996)	(1,115,016)
Other	(22,977)	312,196	199,302
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	 25,418,453	 23,161,517	24,198,274
Total Pension Liability - Beginning	958,771,978	935,610,461	911,412,187
Total Pension Liability - Ending (a)	\$ 984,190,431	\$ 958,771,978	\$ 935,610,461
Plan Fiduciary Net Position:			
Contributions - member	\$ 8,133,570	\$ 8,020,266	\$ 7,618,687
Contributions - employer	24,753,637	23,653,676	22,785,548
Contributions - non-employer contributing entities	13,868,292	12,655,258	12,105,189
Net investment income (loss)	85,334,808	60,494,364	(75,593,162)
Retirement benefits	(56,105,963)	(52,693,921)	(50,411,241)
Refunds of member contributions	(960,101)	(1,227,996)	(1,115,016)
Administrative expenses	(841,097)	(800,525)	(743,566)
Other	(22,977)	312,196	199,302
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	74,160,169	 50,413,318	(85,154,259)
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	743,647,402	693,234,084	778,388,343
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending (b)	\$ 817,807,571	\$ 743,647,402	\$ 693,234,084
Net Pension Liability - Ending (a) - (b)	\$ 166,382,860	\$ 215,124,576	\$ 242,376,377
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a % of Total Pension Liability	83.09%	77.56%	74.09%
Covered Payroll	\$ 107,624,509	\$ 106,308,656	\$ 102,406,957
Net Pension Liability as a % of Covered Payroll	154.60%	202.36%	236.68%

Continued

## LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES OF CHANGES IN NET PENSION LIABILITY FOR THE TEN YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	2021	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Total Pension Liability:			
Service Cost	\$ 16,062,391	\$ 15,447,744	\$ 15,088,408
Interest	57,580,800	55,104,417	53,235,561
Changes of benefit terms	5,543,283	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	2,904,257	(3,719,950)	2,777,735
Changes of assumptions	18,311,429	16,998,759	-
Retirement benefits	(50,210,187)	(44,793,934)	(42,230,723)
Refunds of member contributions	(1,064,011)	(871,015)	(803,328)
Other	155,932	1,158,326	(31,409)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	49,283,894	39,324,347	28,036,244
Total Pension Liability - Beginning	862,128,293	822,803,946	794,767,702
Total Pension Liability - Ending (a)	\$ 911,412,187	\$ 862,128,293	\$ 822,803,946
Plan Fiduciary Net Position:			
Contributions - member	\$ 7,639,816	\$ 7,344,588	\$ 7,169,254
Contributions - employer	21,217,211	18,859,132	18,486,301
Contributions - non-employer contributing entities	12,031,284	11,573,568	10,995,780
Net investment income (loss)	167,823,074	(12,246,469)	19,848,485
Retirement benefits	(50,210,187)	(44,793,934)	(42,230,723)
Refunds of member contributions	(1,064,011)	(871,015)	(803,328)
Administrative expenses	(746,562)	(687,168)	(667,253)
Other	155,932	1,158,326	(31,409)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	156,846,557	(19,662,972)	 12,767,107
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	621,541,786	641,204,758	628,437,651
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending (b)	\$ 778,388,343	\$ 621,541,786	\$ 641,204,758
Net Pension Liability - Ending (a) - (b)	\$ 133,023,844	\$ 240,586,507	\$ 181,599,188
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a % of Total Pension Liability	85.40%	72.09%	77.93%
Covered Payroll	\$ 101,034,338	\$ 99,258,589	\$ 97,296,321
Net Pension Liability as a % of Covered Payroll	131.66%	242.38%	186.65%

Continued

## LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES OF CHANGES IN NET PENSION LIABILITY FOR THE TEN YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

		<u>2018</u>		<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>
Total Pension Liability:								
Service Cost	\$	14,069,093	\$	14,334,517	\$	14,583,080	\$	14,909,285
Interest		51,717,617		49,785,613		47,846,207		47,379,127
Changes of benefit terms		4,422,397		-		-		-
Differences between expected and actual experience		1,369,822		3,957,320		2,359,911		(8,215,690)
Changes of assumptions		19,347,376		-		-		9,016,237
Retirement benefits		(40,191,708)		(38,299,160)		(33,032,405)		(30,071,623)
Refunds of member contributions		(620,524)		(916,974)		(1,068,211)		(963,484)
Other		(317,355)		(108,744)		(327,007)	_	(76,639)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability		49,796,718		28,752,572		30,361,575		31,977,213
Total Pension Liability - Beginning		744,970,984		716,218,412		685,856,837		653,879,624
Total Pension Liability - Ending (a)	\$	794,767,702	\$	744,970,984	\$	716,218,412	\$	685,856,837
Plan Fiduciary Net Position:								
Contributions - member	\$	6,865,645	\$	6,804,087	\$	6,914,444	\$	6,895,027
Contributions - employer	•	17,644,700	•	17,149,329	*	17,325,010	•	17,195,133
Contributions - non-employer contributing entities		10,969,148		10,704,574		10,489,546		10,257,920
Net investment income (loss)		41,112,500		67,770,696		(4,357,804)		14,165,659
Retirement benefits		(40,191,708)		(38,299,160)		(33,032,405)		(30,071,623)
Refunds of member contributions		(620,524)		(916,974)		(1,068,211)		(963,484)
Administrative expenses		(702,337)		(647,220)		(569,128)		(541,752)
Other		(317,355)		(108,744)		(334,147)		(76,639)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position		34,760,069		62,456,588		(4,632,695)		16,860,241
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning		593,677,582		531,220,994		535,853,689		518,993,448
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending (b)	\$	628,437,651	\$	593,677,582	\$	531,220,994		535,853,689
M.D. 'I'I'' F.I' () (I)	•	1// 220 051	•	151 202 402	Φ.	104 007 410	Φ.	150 002 140
Net Pension Liability - Ending (a) - (b)	\$	166,330,051	\$	151,293,402	\$	184,997,418	<u>\$</u>	150,003,148
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a % of Total Pension Liability		79.07%		79.69%		74.17%		78.13%
Covered Payroll	\$	92,866,842	\$	90,259,626	\$	91,184,263	\$	90,500,700
Net Pension Liability as a % of Covered Payroll		179.11%		167.62%		202.88%		165.75%

# LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES OF EMPLOYERS' NET PENSION LIABILITY FOR THE TEN YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

								Net Pension
						Fund's Fiduciary		Liability as a
	Total		Fund's		Employers'	Net Position as a		% of
	Pension		Fiduciary	N	Net Pension	% of Total		Covered
	<b>Liability</b>	1	Net Postion		<b>Liability</b>	Pension Liability	Covered Payroll	Payroll
2024	\$ 984,190,431	\$	817,807,571	\$	166,382,860	83.09%	\$ 107,624,509	154.60%
2023	958,771,978		743,647,402		215,124,576	77.56%	106,308,656	202.36%
2022	935,610,461		693,234,084		242,376,377	74.09%	102,406,957	236.68%
2021	911,412,187		778,388,343		133,023,844	85.40%	101,034,338	131.66%
2020	862,128,293		621,541,786		240,586,507	72.09%	99,258,589	242.38%
2019	822,803,946		641,204,758		181,599,188	77.93%	97,296,321	186.65%
2018	794,767,702		628,437,651		166,330,051	79.07%	92,866,842	179.11%
2017	744,970,984		593,677,582		151,293,402	79.69%	90,259,626	167.62%
2016	716,218,412		531,220,994		184,997,418	74.17%	91,184,263	202.88%
2015	685,856,837		535,853,689		150,003,148	78.13%	90,500,700	165.75%

# LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES OF CONTRIBUTIONS EMPLOYER AND NON-EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES FOR THE TEN YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

<u>Year</u>	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contribution (Excess) <u>Deficiency</u>	Covered <u>Payroll</u>	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 36,461,110	\$ 38,621,929	\$ (2,160,819)	\$ 107,624,509	35.89%
2023	34,999,191	36,308,934	(1,309,743)	106,308,656	34.15%
2022	34,321,376	34,890,737	(569,361)	102,406,957	34.07%
2021	31,257,852	33,248,495	(1,990,643)	101,034,338	32.91%
2020	29,883,991	30,432,700	(548,709)	99,258,589	30.66%
2019	27,635,177	29,482,081	(1,846,904)	97,296,321	30.30%
2018	27,181,553	28,613,848	(1,432,295)	92,866,842	30.81%
2017	23,688,306	27,853,903	(4,165,597)	90,259,626	30.86%
2016	26,457,181	27,814,556	(1,357,375)	91,184,263	30.50%
2015	26,913,363	27,453,053	(539,690)	90,500,700	30.33%

# LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES OF INVESTMENT RETURN FOR THE TEN YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Annual Money-Weighted Rate of Return*
2024	12.56%
2023	9.49%
2022	-9.92%
2021	29.67%
2020	-1.85%
2019	3.56%
2018	8.80%
2017	15.18%
2016	-0.54%
2015	2.62%

<sup>\*</sup>Annual money-weighted rates of return are presented net of investment expense.

#### LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR THE TEN YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### 1. SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET PENSION LIABILITY:

The total pension liability contained in this schedule was provided by the Fund's actuary, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd. The net pension liability is measured as the total pension liability less the amount of the fiduciary net position of the Fund.

#### 2. SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYERS' NET PENSION LIABILITY:

The schedule of employers' net pension liability shows the percentage of the Fund's employers' net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll. The employers' net pension liability is the liability of contributing employers to members for benefits provided through the Fund. Covered payroll is the payroll on which contributions to the Fund are based.

### 3. <u>SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS - EMPLOYER AND NON-EMPLOYER</u> CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES:

The difference between the actuarially determined contributions for employers and nonemployer contributing entities and the contributions reported from employer and non-employer contributing entities, and the percentage of contributions reported to covered payroll is presented in this schedule. Ad valorem and state revenue sharing is support from non-employer contributing entities.

#### 4. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS:

The annual money-weighted rate of return is shown in this schedule. The money-weighted rate of return is calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expense. This expresses investment performance adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested throughout the year, measured using monthly inputs with expenses measured on an accrual basis.

#### 5. ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS:

The information presented in the required supplementary schedules was used in the actuarial valuation for purposes of determining the actuarially determined contribution rate. The assumptions and methods used for the actuarial valuation were recommended by the actuary and adopted by the Board. Additional information on the assumptions and methods used as of the latest actuarial valuation are disclosed in Note 4 to the financial statements, Net Pension Liability of Employers.

### LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR THE TEN YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### 6. <u>CHANGES IN ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS</u>:

Actuarial assumption changes over the last ten years are as follow:

Valuation Date	Investment Rate of Return	Inflation Rate	Estimated Remaining Service Lives	Salary Increases	Mortality Rate Active Members	Mortality Rate Annuitant and Beneficiary
June 30, 2024	6.55%	2.40%	5 years	1-5 years 6.2% 5+ years 5%	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale
June 30, 2023	6.55%	2.40%	5 years	1-5 years 6.2% 5+ years 5%	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale
June 30, 2022	6.55%	2.40%	2.40% 5 years		Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale
June 30, 2021	6.55%	2.40%	5 years	1-5 years 6.2% 5+ years 5%	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale
June 30, 2020	6.75%	2.50%	5 years	1-5 years 6.2% 5+ years 5%	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale

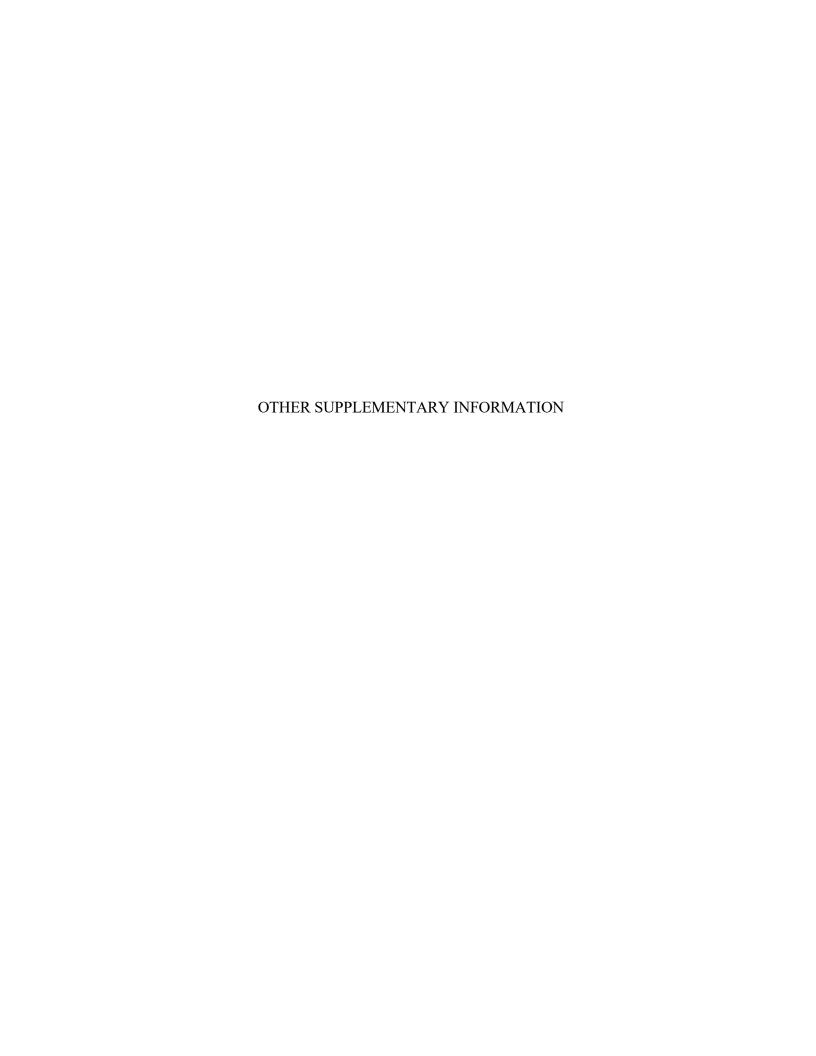
#### LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR THE TEN YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### 6. <u>CHANGES IN ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS</u>: (Continued)

Valuation Date	Investment Rate of Return	Inflation Rate	Estimated Remaining Service Lives	Salary Increases	Mortality Rate Active Members	Mortality Rate Annuitant and Beneficiary
June 30, 2019	6.75%	2.50%	5 years	5.00%	RP 2000 employee table set back 4 years for males and 3 years for females	RP 2000 healthy annuitant table set forward 1 year for males and projected to 2030 using scale AA for males and females
June 30, 2018	6.75%	2.50%	5 years	5.00%	RP 2000 employee table set back 4 years for males and 3 years for females	RP 2000 healthy annuitant table set forward 1 year for males and projected to 2030 using scale AA for males and females
June 30, 2017	7.00%	2.50%	5 years	5.00%	RP 2000 employee table set back 4 years for males and 3 years for females	RP 2000 healthy annuitant table set forward 1 year for males and projected to 2030 using scale AA for males and females
June 30, 2016	7.00%	2.50%	5 years	5.00%	RP 2000 employee table set back 4 years for males and 3 years for females	RP 2000 healthy annuitant table set forward 1 year for males and projected to 2030 for males and females
June 30, 2015	7.00%	2.50%	5 years	5.00%	RP 2000 employee table set back 4 years for males and 3 years for females	RP 2000 healthy annuitant table set forward 1 year for males and projected to 2030 for males and females

#### 7. <u>CHANGES IN BENEFIT TERMS:</u>

A cost of living adjustment (COLA) was granted effective January 1, 2018, January 1, 2021, and January 1, 2024. There were no other changes in benefits.



### LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVE BALANCES JUNE 30, 2024

	ANNUITY SAVINGS DROP		FUNDING DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	EPOSIT ANNUITY		PENSION ACCUMULATION		<u>TOTAL</u>	
BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$	70,572,029	\$ 46,031,683	\$ 9,929,258	\$	486,831,477	\$	130,282,955	\$ 743,647,402
REVENUES AND TRANSFERS:									
Employee contributions		8,133,570	-	-		-		-	8,133,570
Employer contributions		-	-	2,728,402		-		22,025,235	24,753,637
Net investment income (loss)		-	-	650,366		-		84,684,442	85,334,808
Tax collector contributions		-	-	-		-		13,548,166	13,548,166
Revenue sharing contributions		-	-	-		-		320,126	320,126
Repayment of refund		19,158	-	-		-		71,707	90,865
Miscellaneous income		-	-	-		-		100,272	100,272
Transfer from another system		95,554	-	-		-		398,566	494,120
Transfer from Annuity Savings		-	-	-		4,518,761		-	4,518,761
Transfer from Annuity Reserve		-	6,795,627	-		-		-	6,795,627
Transfer from Funding Deposit Account		-	-	-		6,284,902		-	6,284,902
Actuarial transfer		-	-	-		62,887,042		-	62,887,042
		8,248,282	6,795,627	3,378,768		73,690,705		121,148,514	213,261,896
EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS:									
Refunds to terminated employees		960,101	-	-		_		-	960,101
Pensions paid		-	-	-		49,272,107		-	49,272,107
Administrative		-	-	-		_		817,421	817,421
Depreciation		-	-	-		_		23,676	23,676
DROP benefits		-	6,833,852	-		_		-	6,833,852
Transfers to another system		123,415	-	-		_		584,823	708,238
Transfer to Annuity Reserve		4,518,761	-	6,284,902		-		-	10,803,663
Transfer to DROP		-	-	-		6,795,627		-	6,795,627
Actuarial transfer		-	-	-		-		62,887,042	62,887,042
		5,602,277	6,833,852	6,284,902		56,067,734		64,312,962	139,101,727
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)		2,646,005	 (38,225)	 (2,906,134)		17,622,971		56,835,552	74,160,169
BALANCE - END OF YEAR	\$	73,218,034	\$ 45,993,458	\$ 7,023,124	\$	504,454,448	\$	187,118,507	\$817,807,571

## LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVE BALANCES JUNE 30, 2023

	ANNUITY SAVINGS	DROP	FUNDING DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	ANNUITY RESERVE	PENSION ACCUMULATION	TOTAL
BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 65,823,672	\$ 44,379,794	\$ 7,614,046	\$ 482,744,789	\$ 92,671,783	\$693,234,084
REVENUES AND TRANSFERS:						
Employee contributions	8,020,266	-	-	-	-	8,020,266
Employer contributions	-	-	1,816,492	-	21,837,184	23,653,676
Net investment income	-	-	498,720	-	59,889,314	60,388,034
Tax collector contributions	-	-	-	-	12,335,379	12,335,379
Revenue sharing contributions	-	-	-	-	319,879	319,879
Repayment of refund	6,482	-	-	-	38,584	45,066
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-	164,830	164,830
Transfer from another system	249,372	-	-	-	514,267	763,639
Transfer from Annuity Savings	-	-	-	2,155,599	-	2,155,599
Transfer from Annuity Reserve	-	6,582,243	-	-	-	6,582,243
Transfer from Funding Deposit Accoun-	t -	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial transfer	-	-	-	56,276,895	-	56,276,895
	8,276,120	6,582,243	2,315,212	58,432,494	95,099,437	170,705,506
EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS:						
Refunds to terminated employees	1,227,996	_	_	-	-	1,227,996
Pensions paid	-	-	-	47,763,563	-	47,763,563
Administrative	-	-	-	=	787,881	787,881
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	12,644	12,644
DROP benefits	-	4,930,354	-	-	=	4,930,354
Transfers to another system	144,168	_	_	-	410,845	555,013
Transfer to Annuity Reserve	2,155,599	-	-	-	-	2,155,599
Transfer to DROP	_	_	_	6,582,243	-	6,582,243
Actuarial transfer	_	_	_	-	56,276,895	56,276,895
•	3,527,763	4,930,354		54,345,806	57,488,265	120,292,188
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)	4,748,357	1,651,889	2,315,212	4,086,688	37,611,172	50,413,318
BALANCE - END OF YEAR	\$ 70,572,029	\$ 46,031,683	\$ 9,929,258	\$ 486,831,477	\$ 130,282,955	\$743,647,402

## LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>
PERSONAL SERVICES:				
Board Member - per diem	\$	2,400	\$_	2,550
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:				
Accountant		64,320		49,055
Actuarial		81,402		77,700
Legal		42,425		55,812
Program consultant		13,271		12,103
		201,418	_	194,670
COMMUNICATION:			_	
Travel		11,496	_	10,828
OTHER:				
Bank charges		15,429		18,784
Insurance		50,599		36,258
Meetings and seminars		7,393		6,767
Miscellaneous		3,443		1,400
Postage and office supplies		4,618		7,724
Repairs and maintenance		10,625		10,900
	_	92,107	_	81,833
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$	307,421	\$ _	289,881

#### LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES OF PER DIEM PAID TO TRUSTEES FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

The per diem paid to the Trustees is an expenditure of the Fund. For 2024 and 2023 the Trustees received per diem at the rate of \$75.00 for attendance of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees. Per diem paid to the Trustees for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 is as follows:

	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
Rick Arceneaux	\$	225	\$	300
David Dart		300		300
Randy Deshotel		-		75
Annette Fontana		225		300
Mark Graffeo		225		300
Bridget Hanna		-		225
Robin Hooter		300		225
Jeff Skidmore		225		-
Dot Lundin		300		300
Louis Perret		300		225
Kim Turlich-Vaughn		300		300
	\$	2,400	\$	2,550

# LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO THE AGENCY HEAD FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

### Agency Head: Kim Turlich-Vaughn, President of the Board of Trustees

Per diem	\$ 300
Special meals	331
Travel and Seminars	 672
Total	\$ 1,303



Duplantier Hrapmann Hogan & Maher, LLP

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#### Metairie

3300 W. Esplanade Ave. Suite 213 Metairie, LA 70002 Phone: (504) 833-3106 Fax: (504) 838-0262 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

October 24, 2024

Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund Board of Trustees 10202 Jefferson Highway, Building A Baton Rouge, LA 70809

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (the Fund), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 24, 2024.

#### Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's internal control.

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Members American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Society of LA CPAs A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Fund's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

#### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

#### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Fund's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Duplantier, Appress, Alogan and Traker, LCP

New Orleans, Louisiana

#### LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **SUMMARY OF AUDITORS RESULTS:**

- 1. The opinions issued on the financial statements of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 were unmodified.
- 2. Internal Control

Significant deficiencies/Material weaknesses: None noted

3. Compliance and Other Matters

Noncompliance material to financial statements: None noted

FINDINGS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED UNDER GENERALLY ACCEPTED GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS:

**NONE** 

#### SUMMARY OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS:

NONE

#### LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **SUMMARY OF AUDITORS RESULTS:**

- 1. The opinions issued on the financial statements of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 were unmodified.
- 2. Internal Control

Significant deficiencies/Material weaknesses: None noted

3. Compliance and Other Matters

Noncompliance material to financial statements: None noted

FINDINGS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED UNDER GENERALLY ACCEPTED GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS:

**NONE** 

#### SUMMARY OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS:

NONE

### LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 01, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

### LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT RETIREMENT AND RELIEF FUND TABLE OF CONTENTS

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#### **Metairie** 3300 W. Esplanade Ave.

Suite 213 Metairie, LA 70002 Phone: (504) 833-3106 Fax: (504) 838-0262 INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 01, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

October 16, 2024

Board of Commissioners of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund and The Louisiana Legislative Auditor

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period July 01, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in the LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period July 01, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Additionally, the LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

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#### 1) Written Policies and Procedures

- A. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
  - i. **Budgeting**, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
  - ii. **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated, (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list, (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders, (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law, and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
  - iii. *Disbursements*, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
  - iv. *Receipts/Collections*, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
  - v. *Payroll/Personnel*, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
  - vi. *Contracting*, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
  - vii. *Travel and Expense Reimbursement*, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
  - viii. *Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)*, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
  - ix. *Ethics*, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
  - x. *Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity*, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available

system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.

xi. *Prevention of Sexual Harassment*, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

#### 2) Board or Finance Committee

- A. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
  - i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
  - ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.
  - For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
  - iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

#### 3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
  - i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);
  - ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged); and
  - iii. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

#### 4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

A. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

- B. <u>Procedure</u>: For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (e.g., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:
  - i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
  - ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;

- iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit; and
- iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or custodial fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

C. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

- D. <u>Procedure</u>: Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). Alternatively, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc. Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
  - i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
  - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
  - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
  - iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
  - v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

### 5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

A. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

- B. <u>Procedure</u>: For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:
  - i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
  - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
  - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;
  - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and
  - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

- C. <u>Procedure</u>: For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and:
  - i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and

ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

D. <u>Procedure</u>: Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. *Note:* If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

#### 6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards)

A. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

- B. <u>Procedure</u>: Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and:
  - i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved) by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and
  - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

C. <u>Procedure</u>: Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #6B above, <u>excluding fuel cards</u>, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

#### 7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

- A. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:
  - i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov);
  - ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;
  - iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and
  - iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

#### 8) Contracts

- A. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternatively, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and:
  - i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;
  - ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);
  - iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and
  - iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

#### 9) Payroll and Personnel

A. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

**Results**: This section is not applicable. The Fund does not have any employees. The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association provides management and other administrative services to the Fund for a fee.

- B. <u>Procedure</u>: Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
  - i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
  - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;

- iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
- iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

**Results**: The procedures in this section are not applicable.

C. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

**Results**: The procedures in this section are not applicable.

D. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

**<u>Results</u>**: The procedures in this section are not applicable.

#### 10) Ethics

- A. <u>Procedure</u>: Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and:
  - i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and
  - ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable

**Results**: The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association provides management and other administrative services to the Fund for a fee. The Fund does not have employees. However, we randomly selected five employees/board members of the Louisiana Clerks Association and obtained ethics compliance documentation from management and determined whether the entity maintained documentation to demonstrate that required ethics training was completed.

No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

B. **Procedure**: Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

#### 11) Fraud Notice

A. <u>Procedure</u>: Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.

**Results**: No misappropriations were noted.

B. <u>Procedure</u>: Observe that the entity has posted, on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

#### 12) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. <u>Procedure</u>: Perform the following procedures, verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."
  - i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
  - ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
  - iii. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active

antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

<u>Results</u>: We performed the above agreed-upon procedure and discussed the results with management of Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund.

B. <u>Procedure</u>: Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in Payroll and Personnel procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

**<u>Results</u>**: We performed the above agreed-upon procedure and discussed the results with management of Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund.

- C. <u>Procedure</u>: Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows:
  - Hired before June 9, 2020 completed the training; and
  - Hired on or after June 9, 2020 completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment

<u>Results</u>: We performed the above agreed-upon procedure and discussed the results with management of Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund.

#### 13) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

A. <u>Procedure</u>: Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.

<u>Results</u>: The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association provides management and other administrative services to the Fund for a fee. The Fund does not have employees. However, we randomly selected five employees/board members of the Louisiana Clerks Association and obtained sexual harassment compliance documentation from management and determined whether the entity maintained documentation to demonstrate that required sexual harassment training was completed.

B. **Procedure**: Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

- C. **Procedure**: Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
  - i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
  - ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
  - iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
  - iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
  - v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

**Results**: No findings noted as a result of applying the above agreed-upon procedures.

We were engaged by the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund to perform this agreedupon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of Government Auditing Standards. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document. Duplantier, phapman, Hogan and Thaher, LCP New Orleans, Louisiana