



29th Judicial District Court

ST. CHARLES PARISH

JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND HAHNVILLE, LOUISIANA

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

T.S. KEARNS & CO.


(A Professional Corporation)
164 West Main Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301
South end of Canal Boulevard
(985) 447-8507 Fax (985) 447-4833
www.kearnscpa.com

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

For the year ended December 31, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Statement	Page
Independent Auditor's Report		3
Financial Statements:		
<i>Government-Wide Financial Statements</i>		
Statement of Net Position	A	6
Statement of Activities	B	7
<i>Fund Financial Statements</i>		
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds	C	8
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds	D	9
Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet to the Government-wide Statement of Net Position	E	10
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	F	11
Notes to the Financial Statements		12
	Schedule	Page
Required Supplemental Information		
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund	1	23
Other Supplemental Information		
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer	2	24
Schedule of Justice System Funding – Receiving Entity – Cash Basis	3	29

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

For the year ended December 31, 2023

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	4	30
Other Report Required By <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>		
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 <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>		31
Reports by Management		
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings		33
Corrective Action Plan for Current Year Audit Findings		34



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Judges
Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Judicial Clerk's Fund
Hahnville, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Judicial Clerk's Fund (the Court) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Court's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Judicial Clerk's Fund as of December 31, 2023 and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit 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 Court and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the 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.

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 Court'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 opinions. 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 for 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 Court'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 Court'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.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison – general fund information on page 23 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 Government 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 response 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.

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis information that the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Court's basic financial statements. The other supplementary information on page 24-28 is presented for the purpose 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 relate 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 our report dated June 28, 2024 on our consideration of the Court'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 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 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 Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Thibodaux, Louisiana
June 28, 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND**

**Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Cash and equivalents	\$ 906,626
Due from other governments	86,423
Due from Judge	2,308
Prepaid expenses	666
Capital assets, net of depreciation	3,904
Total assets	<u><u>999,927</u></u>
 Liabilities	
Accounts payable	21,416
Total liabilities	<u><u>\$ 21,416</u></u>
 Net position	
Net investment in capital assets	3,904
Unrestricted	974,607
Total net position	<u><u>\$ 978,511</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND**

**Statement of Activities
For the year Ended
December 31, 2023**

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Increase (Decrease) in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants & Contributions	Capital Grants & Contributions	
Governmental activities:					
Judicial Court - General	\$ 395,936	\$ 448,694	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,758
FINS Court	49,449	-	38,598	-	(10,851)
Family Intervention Court	24,893	-	24,892	-	(1)
Adult Drug Court	156,164	8,421	147,015	-	(728)
Total governmental activities:	\$ 626,442	\$ 457,115	\$ 210,505	\$ -	\$ 41,178
General revenues:					
Interest				437	
Total general revenues					\$ 437
Increase (decrease) in net position					41,615
Net position - beginning of the year					936,896
Net position - end of the year					\$ 978,511

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND**

**Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds
December 31, 2023**

	Special Revenue Funds				Total (Memo only)
	General Fund	Families In Need Of Services	Adult Drug Court Program	Family Intervention Court	
ASSETS					
Cash	\$ 887,853	\$ 17,448	\$ 1,135	\$ 190	\$ 906,626
Due from other governments	73,924	-	12,500	-	86,424
Due from Special Revenue Funds	100	-	-	-	100
Due from Judge	2,308	-	-	-	2,308
Prepaid items	666	-	-	-	666
Total assets	<u>964,851</u>	<u>17,448</u>	<u>13,635</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>996,124</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable	2,581	6,334	12,500	-	21,415
Due to General Fund	-	-	-	100	100
Total liabilities	<u>2,581</u>	<u>6,334</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>21,515</u>
Fund balance					
Restricted for special purposes	-	11,114	1,135	90	12,339
Unassigned	962,270	-	-	-	962,270
Total fund balance	<u>962,270</u>	<u>11,114</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>974,609</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 964,851</u>	<u>\$ 17,448</u>	<u>\$ 13,635</u>	<u>\$ 190</u>	<u>\$ 996,124</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND**
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance
Governmental Fund
For the Year ended December 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds				Total (Memo only)
	General Fund	Families in Need of Services Program	Adult Drug Court Program	Family Intervention Court	
REVENUES					
Criminal Fees	\$ 308,592	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 308,592
Civil Fees	31,770	-	-	-	31,770
Grant Income	108,332	-	-	-	108,332
Drug Court TANF	-	-	62,806	-	62,806
Drug Court Non TANF	-	-	84,209	-	84,209
FINS Grant	-	38,598	-	-	38,598
Drug Participant Fees	-	-	8,421	-	8,421
Family Intervention	-	-	-	24,892	24,892
Interest	418	16	3	-	437
Total revenues	<u>\$ 449,112</u>	<u>\$ 38,614</u>	<u>\$ 155,439</u>	<u>\$ 24,892</u>	<u>\$ 668,057</u>
EXPENDITURES					
Dues & Publication	\$ 6,833	\$ -	\$ 415	\$ -	\$ 7,248
Office Expenses	4,024	612	238	81	4,955
Personnel Services & Benefits	37,516	-	-	-	37,516
Professional Services	164,608	48,200	2,318	15,500	230,626
Treatment & Testing	243	-	87,726	8,500	96,469
Insurance	10,260	-	-	-	10,260
Meetings / Meals	915	322	-	-	1,237
Travel / Workshops	12,277	315	2,291	811	15,694
Telephone	1,708	-	-	-	1,708
Rent expense - temporary facilities	49,042	-	-	-	49,042
ATD Grant expense	83,333	-	-	-	83,333
Diversion Professional Grant expense	22,917	-	-	-	22,917
TANF Federal Expenses	-	-	62,804	-	62,804
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>393,676</u>	<u>49,449</u>	<u>155,792</u>	<u>24,892</u>	<u>623,809</u>
Excess of revenues over/(under) expenditures	55,436	(10,835)	(353)	-	44,248
FUND BALANCE					
Beginning of year	906,834	21,949	1,488	90	930,361
End of year	<u>\$ 962,270</u>	<u>\$ 11,114</u>	<u>\$ 1,135</u>	<u>\$ 90</u>	<u>\$ 974,609</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet
To the Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023**

Total fund balance for governmental funds at December 31, 2023	\$974,609
Total net position reported for governmental activities are not financial resources in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. Those assets consist of:	
Equipment, net of \$15,388 accumulated depreciation	<u>3,902</u>
Total net position of governmental activities at December 31, 2023	<u>\$978,511</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund
Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Total net changes in fund balance at December 31, 2023 per Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances	\$44,247
--	----------

Total change in net position reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities is different because:

Governmental Funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.

Capital outlay which is considered expenditures on Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances	-
Basis of capital assets removed from service	(247)
Depreciation expense for the year ending December 31, 2023	<u>(2,385)</u>
	<u>(2,632)</u>

Total changes in net position at December 31, 2023 per Statement of Activities	<u>\$41,615</u>
--	-----------------

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

INTRODUCTION

The Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Clerk's Fund, (the Court) State of Louisiana was established under the Louisiana Revised Statute 13:996.13-15 for the purpose of collecting funds to pay for the judicial and courtroom expenses necessary for the efficient operation of the court. The Judicial Clerk's Fund also manages the operation of the Adult Drug Court Program, Family Intervention Court, and Families In Need of Services (FINS) Program. These programs are authorized by the legislature and receive funding primarily from federal and state grants. The Court is comprised of three independently elected judges with 6-year terms.

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Court have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) accepted in the United States of America. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

A. Reporting entity

Under Governmental Accounting and Financial Standards Section 2100, the financial reporting entity consists of the primary government and its component units. As the governing authority of the parish, the St. Charles Parish Council is considered to be the primary government for financial reporting purposes for the Parish of St. Charles.

Component units are defined as legally separate organizations for which the elected officials of the primary government are financially accountable. The criteria used in determining whether financial accountability exists include:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body.
 - a. The ability of the council to impose its will on that organization and/or
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or imposes specific financial burdens on the council.
2. Organizations for which the council does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the council.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

3. Organizations for which the reporting entity's financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Management has determined that the Twenty - Ninth Judicial District Judicial Clerk's Fund is not considered a component unit of the parish if applying the criteria above. Instead the Court is considered to be a "standalone" special purpose government. This decision is based on the following:

- a. The Court enjoys a separate legal standing from the Parish Council and other governmental entities. The Court has the ability to sue or be sued in its own name.
- b. The Parish Council does not appoint the Judges. The Judges' position was created by Article V, Section 21:24 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974. The Judges' are a separately elected official elected by the citizenry in a general, popular election.
- c. The Parish Council does not have the ability to impose its will on the Judges. The Parish Council cannot remove the Judges from office. The day-to-day operations of the Court's office are under the responsibility and control of no one other than the Judges.
- d. The Court does not provide a significant financial benefit or burden to the Parish Council. While the Parish Council does provide the Judges' with a certain amount of its office space at no cost and pays a certain amount of operating expenses on behalf of the Court, these transactions are not considered significant enough to make the Parish Council financially accountable for the Court's Office.
- e. The Court is not fiscally dependent on the Parish. The primary sources of funding for the Court include state and federal grants and licenses and fees on behalf of other governmental entities.

Therefore, the accompanying financial statements of the Court are separate and apart from the Parish Council. The financial statements include all funds and account groups, as well as component units, of the Court.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

B. Basis of Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The statement of net position and statement of activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include the fund of the reporting entity, which is considered to be a governmental activity. The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Court's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients for goods or services offered by the programs, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The accounts of the Court are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

The fund of the Court is classified as a governmental fund. The emphasis on fund financial statements is on major governmental and enterprise funds, each displayed in a separate column. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity or meets the following criteria:

- a. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of that individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type; and
- b. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

The major funds of the Court are described below:

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

Governmental Funds -

General Fund

The General Fund is the principal fund of the Judicial Clerk's Fund and is used to account for the operations of the Court's office. General revenues are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

Special Revenue Funds

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenues sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

The Court has established three special revenue funds. The following are brief descriptions for the purpose of each special revenues fund.

1. Adult Drug Court Fund – The Adult Drug Court Fund accounts for the operation of the adult drug court, has one program director, and pays for drug prevention and treatment programs as directed by the court. The fund receives revenues from a state grant through the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana and a federal grant from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) passed through the Supreme Court.
2. Families In Need of Services Fund (FINS) - The FINS Fund receives a state grant in order to provide funding for addressing the needs of children and families before they enter the legal system.
3. Family Intervention Court – The Family Intervention Court (FIC) receives a state grant in order to provide funding for mental health and substance use treatment and counseling services to adult and youth FIC participants.

C. Measurement Focus / Basis of Accounting

Measurement Focus is a term used to describe “which” transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to “when” transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The column labeled Statement of Net Position (Statement A) and the column labeled Statement of Activities (Statement B) display information about the Court as a whole. These statements include all the financial activities of the Court. Information contained in these columns reflects the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed). Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 33, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions.

Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The amounts reflected in the Governmental Funds of Statements C and D, are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach is then reconciled, through adjustment, to a government-wide view of Court wide operations.

The amounts reflected in the Governmental Funds of Statements C and D, use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The Court considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest and principal payments on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues –

Revenues are generally recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets.

Expenditures –

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

D. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

As required by the Louisiana Revised Statutes 39:1303, the Judges are required to adopt a budget for the Court's general fund. The Judges follow these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

1. The Judges' office prepares a proposed budget for the general revenue funds and submits it to the Judges for the fiscal year no later than fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.
2. A summary of the proposed budget is published and the public notified that the proposed budget is available for public inspection. At the same time, a public hearing is called.
3. A public hearing held on the proposed budget at least ten days after publication of the call for the hearing.
4. After the holding of the public hearing and completion of all action necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget is legally adopted prior to the commencement of the fiscal year for which the budget is being adopted.
5. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
6. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Budgeted amounts shown are as originally adopted and as amended. Budget amendments are passed on an as-needed basis, and a balance budget is required.

E. Encumbrances

The court does not use encumbrance accounting.

F. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits and interest-bearing demand deposits. Cash equivalents also include amounts in time deposits and those other investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under state law, the Court may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

G. Receivables

The Court considers all receivables to be collectible; therefore, no allowance has been established for doubtful accounts. If uncollectible amounts are identified, necessary adjustments are made when information becomes available. These amounts are not considered to be material to the financial statements.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

H. Inventories

Physical inventories consist of expendable supplies held for consumption. Because inventories are expended within one operating cycle they are recorded as expenditures when paid for and are not recorded as an inventory asset.

I. Capital assets

Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost (the extent to which fixed asset costs have been estimated and the methods of estimation should be disclosed) if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The Court maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

Capital assets are recorded in the Statement of Net Positions and Statement of Activities. Since surplus assets are disposed of or sold for an immaterial amount when declared as no longer needed for public purposes, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets, other than land, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Description	Estimated Life
Equipment	5-7

J. Equity Classifications

In the Government-Wide statements, equity is classified as Net Position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets — Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted Net Position — Consists of Net Position with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted Net Position — All other Net Position that does not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets".

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. As such, fund balance of the governmental fund is classified as follows:

- a. Nonspendable - amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- b. Restricted - amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.
- c. Committed - amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal decision of the Court, which is the highest level of decision-making authority.
- d. Assigned - amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. These amounts are assigned based upon authority of the Court.
- e. Unassigned - all other spendable amounts.

When an expenditure is incurred for the purposed for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the Court considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available, the Court considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed, unless the Court has provided otherwise in its commitment or assignment actions.

K. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

L. Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources, which represents a consumption of net position that applies to future periods and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expenses/expenditure) until then.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources, which represents an acquisition of net position that applies to future periods and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until then.

M. Subsequent Events

The subsequent events of the organization were evaluated through the date of the financial statements were available to be issued (June 28, 2024).

NOTE 2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

At December 31, 2023, the Court has cash balances (book balances) totaling \$906,626 as follows:

Demand Deposits	<u>\$906,626</u>
Total	<u>\$906,626</u>

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximate market. Under state law, these deposits or resulting bank balances must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities must be held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

NOTE 3. CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK

Custodial credit risk is the risk in the event of a bank failure, the Court's deposits may not be returned to it. The Court does not have a policy for custodial credit risk. At December 31, 2023, the Court has \$918,667 in deposits (collected) bank balance. The deposits were secured from risk by federal deposits insurance and pledged securities. All of the Court's deposits were properly secured at December 31, 2023. Of the \$918,667 in bank balances, \$250,000 was secured by FDIC and \$668,667 was secured by pledged securities.

NOTE 4. DUE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS

The amounts due to the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District from other governments of \$86,423 consist of amounts owed for fees and grants at December 31, 2023 but not remitted until the subsequent period. The Court considers all receivables to be collectible; therefore, no allowance has been established for doubtful accounts.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

NOTE 5. CHANGES IN CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of changes in general fixed assets are as follows:

	<u>12/31/2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>
Governmental Activities:				
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Equipment	<u>\$23,685</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (4,393)</u>	<u>\$19,292</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Equipment	<u>(17,150)</u>	<u>(2,385)</u>	<u>4,146</u>	<u>(15,388)</u>
Total capital assets, net of depreciation	<u><u>\$ 6,535</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (2,385)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (247)</u></u>	<u><u>\$3,904</u></u>

Depreciation expense of \$2,385 was charged to the judicial fund in 2023.

NOTE 6. EXPENDITURES OF THE COURT PAID BY THE PARISH

The St. Charles Parish Government provides the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Judicial Clerk's Fund with certain amounts of office space at no cost. These expenditures are not recorded on the books of the Judicial Clerk's Fund.

NOTE 7. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

The Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Court's Office entered into an agreement to pay for assigned employees of the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Attorney's Office to assist with the daily activities of the Court. The Court reimbursed the District Attorney's Office \$37,516, for salaries and benefits of these assigned employees.

NOTE 8. FAMILIES IN NEED OF SERVICES (FINS) PROGRAM

The Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Court entered into a contract with the State of Louisiana, Department of Public Safety and Corrections Youth Services under the Families in Need of Services Assistance Program. The program was created to consider issues arising with children and families in the St. Charles Parish. The main purpose of the program is to address the needs of children and families before they enter the legal system. The program helps children who are considered at risk of offending, stay out of the court system. Services provided can include all facets of the mental health spectrum, including substance abuse treatment. These funds are restricted fund balances for support of the families in need of services program.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023**

NOTE 9. ADULT DRUG COURT PROGRAM

The primary mission of the Adult Drug Court is to break the cycle of addiction and rehabilitate substance-abusing offenders by utilizing governmental agencies and community resources. The Supreme Court Drug Court Office of Louisiana reimburses drug courts for services to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Eligible Drug Court Program clients to help these families understand the health risk associated with substance abuse and to assist them in becoming better able to successfully function in the family setting. These funds are restricted fund balances for support of the adult drug court program.

NOTE 10. FAMILY INTERVENTION COURT PROGRAM

Family Intervention Court is a family centered specialty court to support the youth and caretakers in achieving goals through developing skills to address emotional and substance use issues which are affecting juvenile court-involved families. The mission of the Family Intervention Court is to prepare families to lead health, responsible and productive lives by addressing barriers, including drug and alcohol use, mental health disorders, traumatic histories, and other factors placing a family at risk for recurring court involvement.

NOTE 11. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Court is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. The Court has decided to retain the risk of liability exposure and presently, does not have any funds appropriated for the potential liability exposure.

NOTE 12. LITIGATION AND CLAIMS

There are no claims or litigation pending at December 31, 2023.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND**

**Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
For the Year ended December 31, 2023**

	<u>Original/Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance (Positive/ Negative)</u>
REVENUES			
Criminal Fees	\$ 322,300	308,592	\$ (13,708)
Civil Fees	36,000	31,770	(4,230)
ATD Grant	99,997	83,332	(16,665)
Diversion Professional Services Grant	-	25,000	25,000
Interest	500	418	(82)
Total revenues	<u>\$ 458,797</u>	<u>\$ 449,112</u>	<u>\$ (9,685)</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Dues & Publication	\$ 2,000	6,833	\$ (4,833)
Office Expenses	3,500	4,267	(767)
Personnel Services & Benefits	-	37,516	(37,516)
Professional Services	299,500	164,608	134,892
Insurance	-	10,260	(10,260)
Meetings / Meals	-	915	(915)
Travel / Workshops	5,000	12,277	(7,277)
Telephone	-	1,708	(1,708)
Rent expense	81,740	49,042	32,698
ATD Grant expense	99,997	83,333	16,664
Diversion Professional Services Grant expenses	-	22,917	(22,917)
Total expenditures	<u>491,737</u>	<u>393,676</u>	<u>98,061</u>
Net increase (decrease) in fund balance	(32,940)	55,436	(107,746)
FUND BALANCE			
Beginning of year	<u>1,035,753</u>	<u>930,361</u>	<u>(105,392)</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 1,002,813</u>	<u>\$ 985,797</u>	<u>\$ (213,138)</u>

See accompanying notes and auditors' report.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or
Chief Executive Officer
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Agency Head Name: Judge Connie M. Aucoin, Division "C"

Purpose	Amount
Salary	\$0
Benefits-insurance	0
Benefits-retirement	0
Benefits-other	0
Car allowance	0
Vehicle provided by government	0
Per diem	0
Reimbursements	1,893
Travel	0
Registration fees	350
Conference travel	2,375
Housing	0
Unvouchered expenses (travel advances, etc.)	0
Special meals	0
Other - Dues	0

This form is used to satisfy the reporting requirements of R.S. 24:513(A)(3) on Supplemental Reporting.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or
Chief Executive Officer
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Agency Head Name: Judge R. Champagne Fahrig, Division "D"

Purpose	Amount
Salary	\$0
Benefits-insurance	0
Benefits-retirement	0
Benefits-other	0
Car allowance	0
Vehicle provided by government	0
Per diem	0
Reimbursements	0
Travel	0
Registration fees	0
Conference travel	0
Housing	0
Unvouchered expenses (travel advances, etc.)	0
Special meals	0
Other - Dues	0

This form is used to satisfy the reporting requirements of R.S. 24:513(A)(3) on Supplemental Reporting.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or
Chief Executive Officer
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Agency Head Name: Judge M. Lauren Lemmon, Division "D"

Purpose	Amount
Salary	\$0
Benefits-insurance	0
Benefits-retirement	0
Benefits-other	0
Car allowance	0
Vehicle provided by government	0
Per diem	0
Reimbursements	1,127
Travel	0
Registration fees	2,099
Conference travel	0
Housing	0
Unvouchered expenses (travel advances, etc.)	0
Special meals	248
Other - Dues	0

This form is used to satisfy the reporting requirements of R.S. 24:513(A)(3) on Supplemental Reporting.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or
Chief Executive Officer
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Agency Head Name: Judge L. Davey Rogers, Division "E"

Purpose	Amount
Salary	\$0
Benefits-insurance	0
Benefits-retirement	0
Benefits-other	0
Car allowance	0
Vehicle provided by government	0
Per diem	0
Reimbursements	0
Travel	0
Registration fees	0
Conference travel	0
Housing	0
Unvouchered expenses (travel advances, etc.)	0
Special meals	0
Other – Dues	0
Other - Telephone	0

This form is used to satisfy the reporting requirements of R.S. 24:513(A)(3) on Supplemental Reporting.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or
Chief Executive Officer
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Agency Head Name: Judge Timothy S. Marcel, Division "E"

Purpose	Amount
Salary	\$0
Benefits-insurance	0
Benefits-retirement	0
Benefits-other	0
Car allowance	0
Vehicle provided by government	0
Per diem	443
Reimbursements	2,821
Travel	322
Registration fees	0
Conference travel	2,975
Housing	0
Unvouchered expenses (travel advances, etc.)	0
Special meals	551
Other – Dues	0
Other - Telephone	0

This form is used to satisfy the reporting requirements of R.S. 24:513(A)(3) on Supplemental Reporting.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Schedule of Justice System Funding – Receiving Entity – Cash Basis
As Required by ACT 87 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Receipts From:	First Six-Month Period Ended 6/30/2023	Second Six-Month Period Ended 12/31/2023
<i>St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, Criminal Court Cost/Fees</i>	\$ 82,911	\$153,647
<i>St. Charles Parish Clerk of Court, Civil Fees</i>	\$12,945	\$16,935
Total	\$95,856	\$170,582

See accompanying notes and auditor's report.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Federal Grantor / Pass-Through Grantor / Program Title	CFDA Number	Pass-Through Grantor's Number	Expenditures
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services			
Supreme Court, State of Louisiana			
Drug Court Program Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	93.558	N/A	\$62,804

See accompanying notes and auditors' report.



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

**To the Judges
Twenty-Ninth Judicial District
Judicial Clerk's Fund
Hahnville, Louisiana**

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 governmental activities and each major fund of the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Judicial Clerk's Fund (the Court), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Court's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 28, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Court's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing the 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 Court's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Court's internal control.

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 entity'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 may exist that have not been identified.

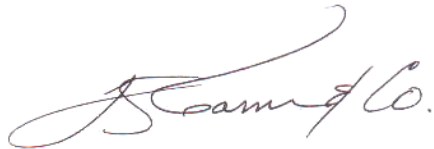
Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Court'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 entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Although the intended use of this report may be limited, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.



Thibodaux, Louisiana
June 28, 2024

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Summary of Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

**Section I – Internal Control and Compliance Material to the
Financial Statements**

2022-01 Noncompliance with Budget Laws

Condition: The Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Judicial Clerk's Fund did not comply with Louisiana Local Government Budget Act Requirements by not amending the adopted budget to meet total budgeted revenues by 5%.

Status: This issue has been resolved and is not a repeated finding.

Section II - Internal Control and Compliance Material to Federal Awards

No findings.

Section III – Management Letter

A management letter was not issued.

**TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CLERK'S FUND
Hahnville, Louisiana**

**Summary of Schedule of Current Year Audit Findings
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Section I – Internal Control and Compliance Material to the Financial Statements

No findings.

Section II - Internal Control and Compliance Material to Federal Awards

No findings.

Section III – Management Letter

A management letter was not issued.



29th Judicial District Court

ST. CHARLES PARISH

JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND HAHNVILLE, LOUISIANA

Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures

Year Ended December 31, 2023

T.S. KEARNS & CO.


(A Professional Corporation)
164 West Main Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301
South end of Canal Boulevard
(985) 447-8507 Fax (985) 447-4833
www.kearnscpa.com



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the Judges of the
Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Judicial Clerk's 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 January 01, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Clerk Fund's (the Court) management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The District 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 January 01, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Additionally, 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:

1) Written Policies and Procedures

- A. 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.
Exception noted. The Court has no written policy on budgeting.
 - 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.
Exception noted. The Court has no written policy on purchasing.
 - iii. **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
Exception noted. The Court has no written policy on disbursements.

- 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).
No exceptions.
- v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
Exception noted. The Court has no written policy on payroll/personnel.
- 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.
Exception noted. The Court has no written policy on contracting.
- vii. **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
No exceptions.
- 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).
Not applicable. The Court does have a written policy for credit cards as it does not utilize credit cards.
- 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.
Exception noted. The Court has no written policy on the ethics.
- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
Not applicable. The Court does not have a written policy for debt service as it does not utilize debt.
- xi. **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.

Not applicable. The Court does not have a written policy for information technology disaster recovery as all their IT falls under the administration of the Parish Government's IT department.

- xii. **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.

Exception noted. The Court has written policies regarding agency responsibilities and prohibitions; however the policy does not reference required training nor annual reporting.

2) Board or Finance Committee

- A. 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, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternately, for those entities reporting on the nonprofit 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.*
 - iii. 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.

Not applicable. The Court consists of three independently elected judges. No board exists.

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of client 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 selected each account, and observe that:

Obtained a list of bank accounts from management and management provided representation that the listing is complete.

- i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged);

No exceptions.

- 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

No exceptions.

- iii. Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Not applicable. There were no items outstanding for more than 12 months of the statement closing date.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- A. 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).

Obtained a list of deposit sites from management and management provided representation that the listing is complete.

- B. 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 (i.e., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job

duties (if no written policies or procedures, 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;
No exceptions.
- ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;
No exceptions.
- iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not 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
No exceptions.
- iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.
No exceptions.

C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe the bond or insurance policy for theft was enforced during the fiscal period.

Not applicable. The Court does not allow cash payments.

D. 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.
No exceptions.
- ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
No exceptions.
- iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
No exceptions.

- iv. Observe 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).

No exceptions.

- v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

No exceptions.

5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, & petty cash purchases)

- A. 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).

Obtained a list of locations that process payments from management and management provided representation that the listing is complete.

- B. 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, 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/making the purchase;

Exception noted. While a supervising judge is responsible for approving a purchase request for staff, there is no procedure for another employee or judge to approve the purchase request for a judge.

- ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;

No exceptions.

- 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;

Exception noted. The person responsible for processing payments has full access to the vendor file. There is no third party review of the vendor file.

- 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

Exception noted. The signed checks are given back to the employee responsible for processing payments to be mailed.

- v. Only employee/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.

Exception noted. Electronic disbursements are generally not used; therefore, the Court has no procedures for these types of disbursements. However, there was one electronic disbursement made during the year. There were no approvals for that disbursement prior to processing.

- C. 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

Obtained a list of the Court's nonpayroll disbursement transaction population from management and management provided representation that the listing is complete.

- 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

No exceptions.

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

No exceptions.

- D. 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.

Exception noted. There was one electronic disbursement made during the year. There was no evidence of approval prior to processing.

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

- A. 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.

Management provided representation that the Court does not have any credit, debit, nor purchase cards.

- B. 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. [Note: Requiring such approval may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality); these instances should not be reported]; and
- ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #7B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e., each card should have 10 transactions subject to testing). For each transaction, observe 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 note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Not applicable. The Court does not utilize credit, debit, fuel or purchase cards.

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

- A. 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, 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

Obtained a list of travel and travel related expense reimbursements from management and management provided representation that the listing is complete.

- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe 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);
No exceptions.
- ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;
No exceptions.
- iii. Observe 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
No exceptions.
- iv. Observe each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.
No exceptions.

8) Contracts

- A. 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. *Alternately, 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

Obtained a list of contracts initiated or renewed from management and management provided representation that the listing is complete.

- 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;
Not applicable.

- 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);

No exceptions.

- iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe 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

Not applicable. No change orders.

- 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 the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

No exceptions.

9) Payroll and Personnel

- A. 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.

*Management provided representation that the Court does not have employees.
Personnel's payroll is administered by another governmental agency.*

- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
 - i. Observe 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 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 agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
- C. 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, 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 or officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

- D. 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.

Not applicable. The Court does not have payroll.

10) Ethics

- A. 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 each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and

No exceptions. All three judges provided documentation of compliance.

- ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

Not applicable. The Court does not have a written ethics policy.

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

No exceptions.

11) Debt Service

- A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.

Not applicable. Management provided representation that the Court did not have bonds, notes or other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period.

- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Not applicable. Management provided representation that the Court did not have bonds, notes or other debt instruments outstanding at year end.

12) Fraud Notice

- A. 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.

Management provided representation that the Court had no public funds nor assets misappropriated during the fiscal year.

- B. Observe 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.

No exceptions.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. 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, 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.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- 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.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

No exceptions.

- C. 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. 42:12671. 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.

Exception noted. Only one Judge had taken the required training.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- A. 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.

No exceptions. All three judges provided documentation of completed training.

- B. Observe 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).

Exception noted. The Court's sexual harassment policy is not publicly displayed. However, it is documented in the Employee Handbook which each employee receives.

- C. 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 it 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.

No exceptions.

Managements Response: The Court's Judges agree with all exceptions and will continue to work to improve processes to ensure effective and efficient handling of all transactions and compliance with all requirements.

We were engaged by the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Judicial Clerk's Fund to perform this agreed-upon 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 Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Judicial Clerk's 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 result 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 LLA as a public document.



Thibodaux, Louisiana
July 28, 2024