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SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 1997

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the audited, or reviewed, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date 7/15/98

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON
THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable Anne L. Simon
Sixteenth Judicial District
Court - District Judge
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin
and St. Mary, Louisiana
New Iberia, Louisiana 70560

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the Sixteenth Judicial District Court - District Judge, a component unit of the Iberia Parish Council, as of and for the year ended December 31, 1997, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the District Court's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that the audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Sixteenth Judicial District Court - District Judge, as of December 31, 1997, and the results of its operations and changes in fund balance for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated June 8, 1998, on our consideration of the Sixteenth Judicial District Court - District Judge's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

Guidry & Chauvin
Certified Public Accountants

Franklin, Louisiana
June 8, 1998

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Balance Sheet
December 31, 1997

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE	ACCOUNT GROUP		TOTAL
<u>ASSETS</u>	GENERAL FUND	GENERAL FIXED ASSETS		
Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,444,798	-		\$ 1,444,798
Interest Receivable	12,485	-		12,485
Intergovernmental receivable	77,909	-		77,909
Deposits	597	-		597
Furniture and equipment	-	49,967		49,967
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,535,789	\$ 49,967		\$ 1,585,756
<u>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</u>				
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 24,344	\$ -		\$ 24,344
Intergovernmental payable	38,446	-		38,446
Total Liabilities	62,790	-		62,790
Equity:				
Investment in general fixed assets	-	49,967		49,967
Fund balance-unreserved- undesignated	1,472,999	-		1,472,999
Total Equity	1,472,999	49,967		1,522,966
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 1,535,789	\$ 49,967		\$ 1,585,756

Subject to the comments contained in the Independent Auditors' report and notes to financial statements which are an integral part hereof

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balances
Budget (GAAP Basis) and Actual - General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 1997

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
<u>REVENUES</u>			
Enforcement fees	\$ 382,310	\$ 384,816	\$ 2,506
Court costs and bond fees	210,215	231,325	21,110
Interest earnings	57,200	62,815	5,615
State grants	7,580	7,136	(444)
Intergovernmental agreement	<u>22,486</u>	<u>8,384</u>	<u>(14,102)</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>679,791</u>	<u>694,476</u>	<u>14,685</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Salaries and related benefits	370,948	370,295	653
Operating services	16,684	22,268	(5,584)
Professional fees	26,150	17,982	8,168
Materials and supplies	5,046	4,923	123
Travel and other charges	8,154	7,509	645
Capital outlay	<u>24,000</u>	<u>19,569</u>	<u>4,431</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>450,982</u>	<u>442,546</u>	<u>8,436</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	228,809	251,930	23,121
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,221,069</u>	<u>1,221,069</u>	<u>-</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$1,449,878</u>	<u>\$1,472,999</u>	<u>\$ 23,121</u>

Subject to the comments contained in the Independent Auditors' report
and notes to financial statements which are an integral part hereof

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1997

INTRODUCTION

The Sixteenth Judicial District Court - District Judge Fund was created by R.S. 13:996.37, which provides for the creation of judicial expense funds for the Sixteenth Judicial District. This statute allows for an increase in court costs, authorization to use funds to expedite efficient operation of the court and to prohibit use of the funds for judges' salaries. The judges, en banc, of the Sixteenth Judicial District have control over the fund and all disbursements made therefrom.

The Sixteenth Judicial District Court previously had two funds, the Judicial Expense Fund and the Criminal Court Fund, which were managed by the Iberia Parish Government. Effective April 1, 1994, an intergovernmental agreement was entered into allowing the said court funds to be administered by the office of the Sixteenth Judicial District Attorney in order to avoid the expense of staff and equipment necessary to administer the court funds. The Judicial Expense Fund is accounted for separately in this report and the Criminal Court Fund is accounted for as a special revenue fund under the District Attorney's financial statements.

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying financial statements of the Sixteenth Judicial District Court - District Judge have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

B. REPORTING ENTITY

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Iberia Parish Council is the financial reporting entity for Iberia Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (parish council), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 1997

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Iberia Parish Council for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and
 - a. The ability of the parish council to impose its will on that organization and/or
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the parish council.
2. Organizations for which the parish council does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the parish council.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

The district court system is fiscally dependent on the parish council for office space and courtrooms. The relationship between the district court system and the parish council is that the parish council has approval authority over its capital budget. In addition, the nature and significance of the relationship between the district court and the parish council is such that exclusion from the parish council's financial statements would render the financial statements incomplete or misleading. Because of these criteria, the district court was determined to be a component unit of the Iberia Parish Council, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Court and do not present information on the parish council, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 1997

C. FUND ACCOUNTING

The District Court uses funds to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions relating to certain government functions or activities.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. On the other hand, an account group is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities that are not recorded in the funds because they do not directly affect net expendable financial resources.

Funds of the District Court are classified as governmental funds. Governmental funds account for the Court's general activities, which includes the collection and disbursement of specific or legally restricted monies. Governmental funds of the court include:

General Fund

The general fund is the general operating fund of the District Court. It is used to account for all financial resources relative to judicial expense funds. R.S. 13:996.37 provides for the collection of a \$15 court fee on every civil suit and a \$5 fine on every criminal case over which the Sixteenth Judicial Court has jurisdiction and the defendant is convicted. These monies can be used to: pay personnel, maintain the law library, purchase equipment and supplies or other items necessary to efficiently operate the court. R.S. 46:236.5 provides for the court to implement an expedited process for the establishment or enforcement of support. Such court may assess and collect a fee of not more than 5 percent of all existing and future support obligations to fund the administrative costs of the system for expedited process.

D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. The governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 1997

generally included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases and decreases in net current assets. The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by the governmental funds. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

Enforcement fees and court costs are recorded in the year they are collected by the authorized agencies. Bond premium fees are recorded in the year they are earned. Interest earned on investments is considered susceptible to accrual and is recorded in the year in which it is earned.

Expenditures

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

E. BUDGETS

The District Court prepares and adopts a budget in accordance with LSA-RS 39:1301 et seq. The proposed budget for the year ended December 31, 1997 was made available for public inspection at a hearing held at the St. Mary Parish Courthouse on December 18, 1996. The proposed budget was formally adopted by the District Court at this time. The budget, which included proposed expenditures and the means of financing them for all governmental funds was published in the official journals of each parish on December 4, 1996. All appropriated lapse at year end. The budget is prepared on a modified accrual basis, consistent with the basis of accounting, for comparability of budget and actual revenues and expenditures. Formal budgetary accounts are integrated into the accounting system during the year as a management control device.

The District Court is authorized to transfer amounts between line items within each fund. When actual revenues within the General Fund are failing to meet estimated annual budgeted revenues by five percent or more and/or actual expenditures within the General Fund are failing to meet estimated annual budgeted expenditures by five percent or more, a budget amendment to reflect such change is adopted by the District Court.

Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statements include the original budget amounts and all subsequent amendments.

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 1997

F. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, and time deposits. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits. Under state law, the District Court may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, money market accounts, 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. DEPOSITS

Deposits include amounts held by the Louisiana Worker's Compensation Corporation as a security deposit against its insurance contract.

H. FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets of governmental funds are recorded as expenditures at the time they are purchased or constructed, and the related assets are reported in the general fixed assets account group. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets. All fixed assets are valued at historical cost.

I. COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The District Court does not have a uniform policy relating to vacation and sick leave. Each judge grants vacation and sick leave at his discretion to his employees. However, vacation and sick leave is never allowed to be accumulated from one calendar year to the next.

J. ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions. Those estimates affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements.

NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

At December 31, 1997, the District Court has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$1,444,798 as follows:

Demand deposit	\$ 43,149
Interest-bearing demand deposits	83,894
Time deposits	<u>1,317,755</u>
Total	<u>\$1,444,798</u>

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 1997

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits (or the 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 are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. At December 31, 1997, the District Court has \$1,456,443 in deposits (collected bank balances). These deposits are secured from risk by \$238,688 of federal deposit insurance and \$2,000,000 of pledged securities held by the custodial bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank (GASB Category 3).

Even though the pledged securities are considered uncollateralized (Category 3) under the provisions of GASB Statement 3, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the District Court that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand.

NOTE 3: INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLE/PAYABLE

The following is a summary of the intergovernmental receivable from other governmental units at December 31, 1997:

Receivable From:

16th Judicial District-	
District Attorney: Criminal Court Fund	\$ 36,133
District Attorney: Criminal Bail Bond Fund	18,465
St. Martin Clerk of Court	843
Iberia Clerk of Court	12,916
St. Mary Clerk of Court	2,415
State of Louisiana - Hearing Officer Fees	<u>7,137</u>
 Total	 <u>\$ 77,909</u>

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 1997

The following is a summary of the intergovernmental payable due to other governments at December 31, 1997:

Payable To:

16th Judicial District Attorney:
Criminal Court Fund \$ 38,446

NOTE 4: FIXED ASSETS

The changes in general fixed assets follow:

	<u>Balance</u>		<u>Balance</u>
	<u>12-31-96</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>12-31-97</u>
		<u>Deletions</u>	
Furniture & Equipment	<u>\$ 30,399</u>	<u>\$ 19,568</u>	<u>\$ 49,967</u>
		<u>\$ -</u>	

NOTE 5: PENSION PLAN

Substantially all employees of the Sixteenth Judicial District Court are members of Parochial Employees Retirement System of Louisiana (System), a cost sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by a separate board of trustees. The System is composed of two distinct plans, Plan A and Plan B, with separate assets and benefit provisions. All employees of the District Court are members of Plan A.

All permanent employees working at least 28 hours per week who are paid wholly or in part from parish funds and all elected parish officials are eligible to participate in the System. Under Plan A, employees who retire at or after age 60 with at least 10 years of creditable service, at or after age 55 with at least 25 years of creditable service, or at any age with at least 30 years of creditable service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 per cent of their final-average salary for each year of creditable service. However, for those employees who were members of the supplemental plan only before January 1, 1980, the benefit is equal to one per cent of final average salary plus \$24 for each year of supplemental-plan-only service earned before January 1, 1980. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over the 36 consecutive or joined months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least the amount of creditable service above and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The System also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 1997

The System issues an annual publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Parochial Employees' Retirement System, Post Office Box 14619, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-4619, or by calling (504) 928-1361.

Funding Policy. Under Plan A, members are required by state statute to contribute 9.5 percent of their annual covered salary and the court is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 7.75 percent of annual covered payroll. Contributions to the System also include one-fourth of one percent (except Orleans and East Baton Rouge Parishes) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish. These tax dollars are divided between Plan A and Plan B based proportionately on the salaries of the active members of each plan. The contribution requirements of plan members and the court are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The courts contributions to the System under Plan A for the years ending December 31, 1997, 1996, and 1995, were \$34,386, \$16,142, and \$10,109, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

NOTE 6: ACCOUNTS, SALARIES AND OTHER PAYABLES

The payables of \$24,344 at December 31, 1997, are as follows:

Accounts	<u>\$ 24,344</u>
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NOTE 7: LEASES

The District Court's office had no material capital or operating leases at December 31, 1997.

NOTE 8: LITIGATION

There is no litigation pending against the District Court's office at December 31, 1997.

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - DISTRICT JUDGE
Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 1997

NOTE 9: EXPENDITURES OF THE DISTRICT COURT NOT INCLUDED
IN THE ACCOMPANYING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The District Court's offices are located in the courthouses of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary Parishes. The upkeep and maintenance of the courthouses are paid for by the respective parish governments.

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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Honorable Paul deMahay
Sixteenth Judicial District
Court - District Judge
Iberia, St. Martin and St.
Mary, Louisiana
New Iberia, Louisiana 70560

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Sixteenth Judicial District Court - District Judge, a component unit of the Iberia Parish Council, as of and for the year ended December 31, 1997, and have issued our report there on dated June 8, 1998. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Sixteenth Judicial District Court - District Judge's general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. 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 that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Sixteenth Judicial District Court - District Judge's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the general purpose financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not

reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended for the information of management of the Sixteenth Judicial District Court and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Guidry & Chauvin

Certified Public Accountants

Franklin, Louisiana
June 8, 1998