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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

ON

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COMPLIANCE AND

INTERNAL CONTROLS

OF

FIRST PARISH COURT

JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND

FOR THE PARISH OF JEFFERSON

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.

DECEMBER 31, 1997

Release Date 7-2-98

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT  
ON  
GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
COMPLIANCE AND  
INTERNAL CONTROLS  
OF  
FIRST PARISH COURT JUDICIAL REFENSE FUND  
FOR THE PARISH OF JEFFERSON, LOUISIANA  
December 31, 1993

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REBOWE & COMPANY\* / HANFORD M. HARRISON  
KUSHNER LAGRAIZE LLP  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable Rebecca Oliver Hand  
Judge, Division "A"  
Honorable George W. Giacobbe  
Judge, Division "B"  
First Parish Court for the Parish of Jefferson  
824 David Drive  
Metairie, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying general-purpose financial statements of the First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund (the Fund) as of and for the year ended December 31, 1997. These general-purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Fund'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. These 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 our 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 First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund as of December 31, 1997, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated May 8, 1998, on our consideration of the First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund's compliance and internal control over financial reporting.

**REBOVE & COMPANY/HANFORD M. HARRISON**  
A Professional Corporation

*Rebove & Company      Hanford M. Harrison*

**KUSHNER LAGRAIZE, L.L.P.**

*Kushner LaGratz, L.L.P.*

Metairie, Louisiana  
May 8, 1998

First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund  
for the Parish of Jefferson

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES  
AND ACCOUNT GROUPS

December 31, 1997

	<u>GOVERNMENTAL</u> <u>FUND TYPE</u>	<u>ACCOUNT</u> <u>GROUP</u>	
	<u>GENERAL</u> <u>FUND</u>	<u>GENERAL</u> <u>FIXED</u> <u>ASSETS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>(MEMORANDUM</u> <u>ONLY)</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Due from Parish (Note A5)	\$ 100,354	\$ -	\$ 100,354
Due from other governments (Note B)	5,200	-	5,200
Property, equipment and improvements (Notes A4 & C)	<u>-</u>	<u>308,008</u>	<u>308,008</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 111,554</u></b>	<b><u>\$308,008</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 419,562</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>FUND EQUITY</b>			
Investment in general fixed assets	-	308,008	308,008
Fund balance	<u>111,554</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,554</u>
<b>TOTAL FUND EQUITY</b>	<b><u>\$ 111,554</u></b>	<b><u>\$308,008</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 419,562</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>	<b><u>\$ 111,554</u></b>	<b><u>\$308,008</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 419,562</u></b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund  
for the Parish of Jefferson

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE

Year Ended December 31, 1997

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>
Revenues	
Charges for services	
Court cost assessments	\$ 119,428
Fines and forfeitures	64,509
Miscellaneous	<u>977</u>
Total Revenues	<u>184,914</u>
Expenditures	
Current	
General government:	
General expenses	4,195
Law clerk salary	28,401
Outside services	19,819
Supplies and office expenses	24,488
Transportation	13,808
Travel and seminars	24,081
Professional fees	<u>14,282</u>
Total current expenditures	121,995
Capital Outlay	<u>22,381</u>
Total expenditures	<u>144,376</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	10,498
Fund balance	
Beginning of year	<u>216,918</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 227,416</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund  
for the Parish of Jefferson

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 1997

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund for the Parish of Jefferson conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of the more significant policies.

1. Reporting Entity

The First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund for the Parish of Jefferson was established July 18, 1992, under the provisions of Louisiana R.S. 13:2562.32. These statutes provide for this fund to operate under the sole and exclusive authority of the First Parish Court judges. As such, the Parish Council is not financially accountable for these funds.

As required by generally accepted accounting principles, this report includes all funds and account groups of the First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund (the primary government) that are controlled or dependent on the judges of the First Parish Court.

2. Fund Accounting

The Judicial Expense Fund uses funds and account groups 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 related to certain government functions or activities.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. An account group, on the other hand, 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 available financial resources.

Funds are typically classified into three categories: governmental, proprietary and fiduciary. Each category, in turn, is divided into separate "fund types".



First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund  
For the Parish of Jefferson

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 1997

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

The General Fund of the Judicial Expense Fund is classified as a "Governmental Fund". Governmental funds are used to account for all or most of a government's general activities.

3. Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by governmental funds. 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 be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Fines and fees collected and held by intermediary collecting governments at year end on behalf of the Judicial Expense Fund are considered susceptible to accrual and are recognized as revenue.

4. Budgetary Accounting

Formal budgetary accounting is not employed as a management control device during the year for the General Fund.

5. Due from Parish

The funds of the Judicial Expense Fund are held on account by the Parish as part of its General Fund. Transactions during the year are posted to this account by the Parish. Transactions affecting

First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund  
for the Parish of Jefferson

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 1997

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

the balance of the account may only be authorized by the First Parish Court judges.

4. General Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are not capitalized in the funds used to acquire or construct them. Instead, capital acquisitions and construction are reflected as expenditures in governmental funds, and the related assets are reported in the general fixed assets account group. All purchased fixed assets are valued at cost where historical records are available and at an estimated historical cost where no historical records exist. Donated fixed assets are valued at their estimated fair market value on the date received.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized. Improvements to fixed assets are capitalized.

Assets in the general fixed assets account group are not depreciated.

5. Total Column on Combined Balance Sheet

The total column on the Combined Balance Sheet is captioned "Memorandum Only" to indicate that it is presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in this column does not present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

NOTE B - DUE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS

This amount represents the fines and fees due from the State of Louisiana, Department of Public Safety for collections made through December 31, 1997 and not yet remitted to the Judicial Expense Fund.

First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund  
for the Parish of Jefferson

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 1997

NOTE C - FIXED ASSETS

A summary of the changes in the General Fixed Assets Account Group follows:

	<u>BALANCE</u> <u>JANUARY 1,</u> <u>1997</u>	<u>ADDITIONS</u>	<u>DELETIONS</u>	<u>BALANCE</u> <u>DECEMBER 31,</u> <u>1997</u>
Equipment	\$ 287,263	\$ 32,303	\$ 60,347	\$ 359,219
Vehicles	<u>27,624</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,624</u>
	<u>\$ 314,887</u>	<u>\$ 32,303</u>	<u>\$ 60,347</u>	<u>\$ 386,843</u>

NOTE D - STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The statutes which created the Judicial Expense Fund place certain limitations and restrictions on the collections and disbursements of the fund. The Judicial Expense Fund is in compliance with all significant limitations and restrictions for 1997.

**REBOWE & COMPANY\* / HANFORD M. HARRISON  
KUSHNER LAGRAIZE LLP  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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 Rebecca Oliver Hand  
Judge, Division "A"  
Honorable George W. Giacobbe  
Judge, Division "B"  
First Parish Court for the Parish of Jefferson  
924 David Drive  
Metairie, Louisiana

We have audited the general-purpose financial statements of the First Parish Court Judicial Expense Fund (the Fund) as of and for the year ended December 31, 1997, and have issued our report thereon dated May 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 Fund'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 Fund'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 the First Parish Court, the Parish of Jefferson, and the Legislative Auditor of the State of Louisiana. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

**REBOWE & COMPANY/HANFORD M. HARRISON**  
A Professional Corporation

*Rebowe & Company*

*Hanford M. Harrison*

**KUSHNER LACROIXE, L.L.P.**

*Kushner LaCroix, L.L.P.*

Metairie, Louisiana  
May 8, 1999