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*Financial Report*  
***Thirty-Fourth Judicial District  
Indigent Defender Board***

*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 JUN 24 1998

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December 31, 1997 and 1996

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Bourgeois Bennett

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Indigent Defender Board of the  
Thirty-Fourth Judicial District,  
Chalmette, Louisiana.

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board (the Board), State of Louisiana, as of and for the years ended December 31, 1997 and 1996, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Board. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits 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. These standards require that we plan and perform the audits 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 audits provide 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 Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board as of December 31, 1997 and 1996, and the results of its operations for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated June 9, 1998 on our consideration of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

*Bourgeois Bennett, LLC.*

Certified Public Accountants.

New Orleans, La.,  
June 9, 1998.

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**BALANCE SHEETS - GENERAL FUND AND ACCOUNT GROUP**

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial District  
Indigent Defender Board**

December 31, 1997 and 1998

	1997		1998	
	Governmental Fund Type - General	Account Group - General Fund Assets	Governmental Fund Type - General	Account Group - General Fund Assets
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash	\$ 107,141	\$ 107,141	\$ 154,212	\$ 154,212
Due from other governmental units	60,649	60,649	21,278	21,278
Fund assets		<u>6,413</u>		<u>6,413</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 167,790</u>	<u>\$ 174,282</u>	<u>\$ 175,891</u>	<u>\$ 182,294</u>
<b>Fund Equity and Other Credits</b>				
Investment in general fund assets		\$ 6,413		\$ 6,413
Fund balances - unreserved	<u>\$ 167,790</u>	<u>167,790</u>	<u>\$ 175,891</u>	<u>175,891</u>
Total fund equity and other credits	<u>\$ 167,790</u>	<u>\$ 174,282</u>	<u>\$ 175,891</u>	<u>\$ 182,294</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - GENERAL FUND**

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial District  
Indigent Defender Board**

For the years ended December 31, 1997 and 1996

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Grant fees:		
Louisiana Indigent Defender Board	\$ 95,588	\$ 81,692
Service fees:		
St. Bernard Parish Sheriff	57,953	69,106
Office of the 14th Judicial District District Attorney	49,706	23,453
Use of money and property - interest earnings	<u>1,062</u>	<u>2,329</u>
Total revenues	<u>204,309</u>	<u>176,580</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Supplies and materials	5,902	3,608
Other services and charges:		
Contractual services	197,842	147,824
Professional services	7,130	5,804
Seminars	1,535	-
Capital expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>2,484</u>
Total expenditures	<u>212,409</u>	<u>158,940</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures</b>	<b>(8,101)</b>	<b>18,540</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>		
Beginning of year	<u>175,891</u>	<u>157,351</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 167,790</u>	<u>\$ 175,891</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****Thirty-Fourth Judicial District  
Indigent Defender Board**

December 31, 1997 and 1996

**Note 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board, established in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 15:144-149, provides counsel to represent indigents (nearly individuals) in criminal and quasi-criminal cases at the district court level. The judicial district encompasses St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. The Board is composed of 3 members who are appointed by the district court. The Board members serve without compensation. Revenues to finance the Board's operations are provided primarily from grants from the State of Louisiana Judicial Branch and court costs or fines imposed by the various courts within the district.

The accounting policies of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board (the Board) conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies:

**a) Reporting Entity**

For financial reporting purposes, the Board is a part of the district court system of the State of Louisiana. However, the state statutes that create the Boards also give each of the Boards control over all their operations. This includes the hiring and retention of employees, authority over budgeting, responsibility for deficits, and the receipt and disbursement of funds. The Board is financially independent and operates autonomously from the State of Louisiana and independently from the district court system. Therefore, the Board reports as an independent reporting entity, and the general purpose financial statements include only the transactions of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board.

**Note 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**b) Fund Accounting**

The Board uses a fund 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. 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 funds because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources.

**Governmental Funds**

Governmental Funds are those through which most governmental functions of the Board are financed. The acquisition, use and balances of the Board's expendable financial resources and the related liabilities are accounted for through Governmental Funds. The measurement focus is upon determination of changes in financial position, rather than upon net income determination. The following is the Governmental Fund of the District:

**General Fund**

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Board. It is used to account for all financial resources and expenditures of the Board except those that are required to be accounted for in another fund.

**Account Groups**

An account group is used to establish accounting control and accountability. The Board's account group is as follows:

**General Fixed Assets Account Group**

This account group is used to account for all general fixed assets of the Board.

**Note 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**e) Basis of Accounting**

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The Governmental Fund is accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Its revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Court costs on fines and forfeitures imposed by the Board and city courts and Act 834 bond premium fees are recorded in the year they are collected by the tax collectors. Interest income on investments is recorded as revenue when the investments have matured and the income is available. Miscellaneous revenues are recorded as revenues when received in cash by the Board because they are generally not measurable until actually received.

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

**f) 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.

**g) Operating Budgetary Data**

The Board did not adopt, nor was required to adopt, a budget for the General Fund for the years ended December 31, 1997 and 1996. Therefore, the accompanying general purpose financial statements do not include a comparison of revenues and expenditures to budget.



**Note 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**f) Bad Debt**

The general purpose financial statements for the Board contain no allowance for bad debts. Uncollectible amounts due for receivables are recognized as bad debts at the time information becomes available which would indicate the uncollectibility of the particular receivable. These amounts are not considered to be material in relation to the financial position or operations for the fund.

**g) General Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations (general fixed assets) are accounted for in the General Fixed Assets Account Group, rather than in governmental funds. The Account Group is not a fund. It is concerned only with the measurement of financial position.

It is not involved with the measurement of results of operations. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets.

**h) Vacation and Sick Leave**

The Board has no employees.

**i) Encumbrances**

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts and other commitments are recorded in the fund general ledger, is not utilized by the Board.

**j) Total Column on General Purpose Statements - Overview**

The total column on the general purpose statements - overview is captioned memorandum only to indicate that it is presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in this column does not present financial position or results of operations, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation. Interfund eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

**Note 2 - CASH**

Louisiana state law allows all political subdivisions to invest excess funds in obligations of the United States, certificates of deposit of state or national banks having their principal office in Louisiana, or any other federally insured investment.

State law requires deposits (cash and certificates of deposit) of all political subdivisions to be fully collateralized at all times. Acceptable collateralization includes FDIC insurance and the market value of securities purchased and pledged to the political subdivision. Obligations of the United States, the State of Louisiana and certain political subdivisions are allowed as security for deposits. Obligations furnished as security must be held by the political subdivision or with an unaffiliated bank or trust company for the account of the political subdivision. In accordance with state law all cash was collateralized at December 31, 1997.

Cash and deposits are categorized into three categories of credit risk.

Category 1 includes deposits covered by federal depository insurance or by collateral held by the Board or its agent in the Board's name.

Category 2 includes deposits covered by collateral held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or its agent in the Board's name.

Category 3 includes deposits covered by collateral held by the pledging financial institution or its trust department or agent but not in the Board's name and deposits which are uninsured or uncollateralized.

The year end bank balances of cash and the carrying amount as shown on the combined balance sheets are as follows:

	Bank Balances			Book Balance
	Category			
	1	2	3	
1997	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$12,474</u>	<u>\$107,441</u>
1996	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$12,884</u>	<u>\$156,313</u>

**Note 2 - CASH (Continued)**

At December 31, 1997 and 1996, cash in excess of the FDIC insurance was collateralized by securities held by unaffiliated banks for the account of the Board. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), which promulgates the standards for accounting and financial reporting for state and local governments, considers these securities uncollateralized. Even though the pledged securities are considered uncollateralized 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 depositor that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand.

**Note 3 - DUE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL UNITS**

Amounts due from other governmental units at December 31, 1997 and 1996 consisted of the following:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office	\$ 4,821	\$10,804
Office of the District Attorney of the 34 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District	<u>33,828</u>	<u>11,344</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b><u>\$68,649</u></b>	<b><u>\$22,148</u></b>

The amount due from the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office are for court costs on fines and forfeitures. The amount due from the Office of the District Attorney of the 34<sup>th</sup> District is for bond premium fees in accordance with Act 894 of 1993, and bond forfeitures in accordance with Act 52 of 1994.

**Note 4 - CHANGES IN GENERAL FIXED ASSETS**

A summary of changes in general fixed assets follows:

	Balance January 1, 1996	1996 Additions	Balance December 31, 1996	1997 Additions	Balance December 31, 1997
Equipment	\$4,009	\$1,230	\$5,239	\$ -	\$5,239
Furniture and Fixtures	—	1,174	1,174	—	1,174
Totals	<u>\$4,009</u>	<u>\$2,404</u>	<u>\$6,413</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$6,413</u>

**Note 5 - EXPENDITURES NOT INCLUDED IN ACCOMPANYING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The accompanying general purpose financial statements do not include certain expenditures of the Board which are paid out of the funds of the St. Bernard Parish Government. These expenditures include the telephone and utilities of the Board. The Parish Government also provides office space to the Board.

**SPECIAL REPORT OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**



Bourgeois Bennett

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

To the Indigent Defender Board of the  
Thirty-Fourth Judicial District,  
Chalmette, Louisiana.

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board (the Board), as of and for the years ended December 31, 1997 and 1996, and have issued our report thereon, dated June 9, 1998. We conducted our audits 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 Board'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 audits 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 audits, we considered the Board'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. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable

conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Board's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the general purpose financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 91-1.

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 of the 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. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe the reportable condition described above is not a material weakness.

This report is intended for the information of the Board, the State of Louisiana and the Legislative Auditor for the State of Louisiana. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

*Bourgeois Bennett, LLC.*

Certified Public Accountants.

New Orleans, La.,  
June 9, 1998.

## SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS

### Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board

For the year ended December 31, 1997

#### Section I Summary of Auditor's Results

##### a) Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued: unqualified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified?                    \_\_\_ Yes         X  No
- Reportable condition(s) identified that are not  
considered to be material weakness                     X  Yes        \_\_\_ No

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?    \_\_\_ Yes         X  No

##### b) Federal Awards

The Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board did not receive federal awards during the year ended December 31, 1997.

#### Section II Financial Statement Findings

97-1    **Criteria** - Internal controls should be in place that provides reasonable assurance that all transactions are being recognized.

**Condition** - The majority of the accounting functions of the Board's office are performed by only one member of the Board.

**Questioned Costs** - None

**Context** - Not applicable



**Section II Financial Statement Findings (Continued)**

**Effect** - The Board's office has a lack of segregation of duties.

**Cause** - A limited number of qualified Board members to assist in the accounting function.

**Recommendation** - We recommend the Board consider having other personnel involved in the accounting function, although to employ such controls may not be cost beneficial.

**Views of responsible officials of the auditee when there is disagreement with the finding, to the extent practical** - None.

**Section III Federal Award Findings and Questioned Cost**

Not applicable.

**REPORTS BY MANAGEMENT**

## **SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS**

### **Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board**

For the year ended December 31, 1997

#### **Section I Internal Control and Compliance Material to the General Purpose Financial Statements**

##### **Internal Control**

**96-1 Recommendation** - We recommend the Board consider having other personnel involved in the accounting function, although to employ such controls may not be cost beneficial.

**Management's Response** - The Board has neither the qualified personnel nor the funds to hire additional personnel to assist in the accounting functions. Unresolved, the comment is reported as reportable condition 97-1 in the schedule of findings.

##### **Compliance**

No compliance findings material to the general purpose financial statements were noted during the year ended December 31, 1996.

#### **Section II Internal Control and Compliance Material To Federal Awards**

The Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board did not receive federal awards during the year ended December 31, 1996.

#### **Section III Management Letter**

A management letter was not issued in connection with the audit for the year ended December 31, 1996.

## MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

### Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board

For the year ended December 31, 1997

#### **Section I Internal Control and Compliance Material to the General Purpose Financial Statements**

##### **Internal Control**

**97-1 Recommendation** - We recommend the Board consider having other personnel involved in the accounting function, although to employ such controls may not be cost beneficial.

**Management's Response** - The Board has neither the qualified personnel nor the funds to hire additional personnel to assist in the accounting functions.

##### **Compliance**

No compliance findings material to the general purpose financial statements were noted during the year ended December 31, 1997.

#### **Section II Internal Control and Compliance Material To Federal Awards**

The Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board did not receive federal awards during the year ended December 31, 1997.

#### **Section III Management Letter**

A management letter was not issued in connection with the audit for the year ended December 31, 1997.



Bourgeois Bureau

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**COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE THIRTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT INDIGENT DEFENDER BOARD**

To the Indigent Defender Board of the  
Thirty-Fourth Judicial District,  
Chalmette, Louisiana.

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Indigent Defender Board (the Board) for the year ended December 31, 1997 and have issued our report thereon dated June 9, 1998. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

**Our Responsibility under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards**

As stated in our engagement letter dated February 18, 1998, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. Because of the concept of reasonable assurance and because we did not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material errors, fraud, or other illegal acts may exist and not be detected by us.

As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Board. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of the Board's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with such provisions.

**Significant Accounting Policies**

Management has the responsibility of selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the Board are described in Note 1 to the general purpose financial

statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 1997. We noted no transactions entered into by the Board during the year that were both significant and unusual, and of which, under professional standards, we are required to inform you, or transactions for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

### **Accounting Estimates**

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the general purpose financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the general purpose financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. There were no significant estimates affecting the December 31, 1997 financial statements.

### **Significant Audit Adjustments**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a significant audit adjustment as a proposed correction of the general purpose financial statements that, in our judgment, may not have been detected except through our auditing procedures. These adjustments may include those proposed by us but not recorded by the Board that could potentially cause future financial statements to be materially misstated, even though we have concluded that such adjustments are not material to the current financial statements. We proposed no audit adjustments that could, in our judgment, either individually or in the aggregate, have a significant effect on the Board's financial reporting process.

### **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the general purpose financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

**Consultations with Other Independent Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit's general purpose financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

**Issues Discussed Prior to Retention of Independent Auditors**

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Board's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

**Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing our audit.

This information is intended solely for the use of the management of the Board and the Legislative Auditor of the State of Louisiana and should not be used for any other purpose. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.



Certified Public Accountants

New Orleans, La.,  
June 9, 1998.