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**LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana**

**General Purpose Financial Statements  
As of and for the Two Years Ended  
June 30, 1997  
With Supplemental Information Schedules**

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 JAN 14 1998

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**VERNON R  
COON**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana

General Purpose Financial Statements  
As of and for the Two Years Ended  
June 30, 1997  
With Supplemental Information Schedules

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## Independent Auditor's Report

### LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT Ruston, Louisiana

MEMBER AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC  
ACCOUNTANTS

PRACTICE LIMITED TO  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ACCOUNTING, AUDITING  
AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court, a component unit of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, as of June 30, 1997, and for the two years then ended, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I 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. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the general purpose financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court, as of June 30, 1997, and the results of its operations for the two years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

My audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental information schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the general purpose financial statements of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in

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LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT

Ruston, Louisiana

Independent Auditor's Report

June 30, 1997

in the audit of the general purpose financial statements and, in my opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, I have also issued reports dated November 7, 1997, on the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court's; compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts; and my consideration of the agency's internal control structure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. M. ...', written over a horizontal line.

West Monroe, Louisiana

November 7, 1997

**GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(OVERVIEW)**

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS

Combined Balance Sheet, June 30, 1997

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND	FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE - AGENCY FUNDS	ACCOUNT GROUPS - GENERAL FIXED ASSETS	GENERAL LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS	TOTAL (MEMORANDUM ONLY)
<b>ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$244,294	\$573,911			\$818,205
Receivables	13,361				13,361
Office furnishings and equipment			\$132,233		132,233
Amount to be provided for retirement of general long-term obligations				\$5,840	5,840
<b>TOTAL ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS</b>	<u>\$257,655</u>	<u>\$573,911</u>	<u>\$132,233</u>	<u>\$5,840</u>	<u>\$969,639</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$2,865				\$2,865
Payroll deductions payable	2,753				2,753
Unsettled deposits due to others		\$573,911			573,911
Compensated absences payable				\$5,840	5,840
Total Liabilities	<u>5,618</u>	<u>573,911</u>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>5,840</u>	<u>585,369</u>
Fund Equity:					
Investment in general fixed assets			\$132,233		132,233
Fund balance - unreserved - undesignated	252,037				252,037
Total Fund Equity	<u>252,037</u>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>132,233</u>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>384,270</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>	<u>\$257,655</u>	<u>\$573,911</u>	<u>\$132,233</u>	<u>\$5,840</u>	<u>\$969,639</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and  
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget  
(GAAP Basis) and Actual  
For the Year Ended June 30, 1997

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Licenses and permits - marriage	\$5,400	\$5,983	\$583
Intergovernmental revenues - state operating grant	10,800	10,800	
Fees, charges, and commissions for services:			
Court costs, fees, and charges	248,850	279,213	30,363
Fees for recording legal documents	190,000	205,509	15,509
Charges for certified copies	15,000	14,923	(77)
Charges for use of photocopier	27,000	27,855	855
Use of money and property - interest earnings	<u>20,000</u>	<u>19,624</u>	<u>(376)</u>
Total revenues	<u>517,050</u>	<u>563,907</u>	<u>46,857</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
General government - judicial:			
Current:			
Personal services and related benefits	410,000	410,029	(29)
Operating services	89,000	86,800	2,200
Materials and supplies	16,000	13,373	2,627
Travel and other charges	28,000	27,200	800
Capital outlay	<u>1,500</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>1,005</u>
Total expenditures	<u>544,500</u>	<u>537,897</u>	<u>6,603</u>
<b>EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(27,450)</b>	<b>26,010</b>	<b>53,460</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>226,027</u>	<u>226,027</u>	
<b>FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR</b>	<u><u>\$198,577</u></u>	<u><u>\$252,037</u></u>	<u><u>\$53,460</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.



LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and  
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget  
(GAAP Basis) and Actual  
For the Year Ended June 30, 1996

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Licenses and permits - marriage	\$5,000	\$5,158	\$158
Intergovernmental revenues - state operating grant	9,000	9,177	177
Fees, charges, and commissions for services:			
Court costs, fees, and charges	225,400	233,375	7,975
Fees for recording legal documents	155,000	148,530	(6,470)
Charges for certified copies	24,000	25,084	1,084
Charges for use of photocopier	21,000	22,728	1,728
Use of money and property - interest earnings	21,000	21,302	302
Total revenues	<u>460,400</u>	<u>465,354</u>	<u>4,954</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
General government - judicial:			
Current:			
Personal services and related benefits	380,000	376,618	3,382
Operating services	100,000	97,907	2,093
Materials and supplies	14,000	16,224	(2,224)
Travel and other charges	13,000	13,666	(666)
Capital outlay	10,000	4,203	5,797
Total expenditures	<u>517,000</u>	<u>508,618</u>	<u>8,382</u>
<b>EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	(56,600)	(43,264)	13,336
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCE</b>			
Sale of fixed assets		250	250
<b>EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	(56,600)	(43,014)	13,586
<b>FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>269,041</u>	<u>269,041</u>	
<b>FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$212,441</u>	<u>\$226,027</u>	<u>\$13,586</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and For the Two Years Ended June 30, 1997

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

As provided by Article V, Section 28 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the clerk of court serves as the ex-officio notary public, the recorder of conveyances, mortgages and other acts, and shall have other duties and powers provided by law. The clerk of court is elected for a term of four years.

**A. REPORTING ENTITY**

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Lincoln Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for Lincoln Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (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.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14 establishes criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury for financial reporting purposes. The basic criteria 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 police jury 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 police jury.
2. Organizations for which the police jury does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the police jury.

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

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.

Because the police jury maintains and operates the parish courthouse in which the clerk's office is located, the clerk was determined to be a component unit of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the clerk and do not present information on the police jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

**B. FUND ACCOUNTING**

The clerk of court 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 that comprises its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures. An account group, on the other hand, is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities (general fixed assets and general long-term debt) that are not recorded in the "funds" because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources. They are concerned only with the measurement of financial position, not with the measurement of results of operations.

Funds are classified into three categories; governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. Each category, in turn, is divided into separate "fund types". Governmental funds are used to account for a government's general activities, where the focus of attention is on the providing of services to the public as opposed to proprietary funds where the focus of attention is on recovering the cost of providing services to the public or other agencies through service charges or user fees. Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held for others. The clerk of court's current operations require the use of only governmental and fiduciary funds. The governmental and fiduciary fund types used by the clerk are described as follows:

**Governmental Fund Type - General Fund**

The General Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:781, is the principal fund of the clerk of court and is used to account for the operations of the clerk's office. The various fees and charges due to the clerk's office are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

**Fiduciary Fund Type - Agency Funds**

The Advance Deposit and Registry of Court agency funds are used to account for assets held as an agent for others. Agency funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations.

**C. FIXED ASSETS AND  
LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations (general fixed assets) are accounted for in the general fixed assets account group, rather than in the General Fund. General fixed assets provided by the parish police jury are recorded in the general fixed assets account group. Approximately 96 per cent of fixed assets are based on actual historical costs while the remaining 4 per cent are valued at estimated historical costs based on the actual costs of like items. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets.

Long-term obligations (compensated absences) expected to be financed from the General Fund are accounted for in the general long-term obligations account group rather than in the General Fund. Long-term obligations are recognized as current expenditures when they are actually paid.

**D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

The financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All 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 for



LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

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 for reporting all governmental and fiduciary fund types. 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. The clerk of court uses the following practices in recognizing and reporting revenues and expenditures:

**Revenues**

Intergovernmental revenue, recordings, cancellations, court attendance, criminal costs, and other fees, charges, and commissions for services are recorded in the year in which they are earned.

Interest income on time deposits is recorded when the time deposits have matured and the income is available.

Substantially all other revenues are recognized when received by the clerk of court.

Based on the above criteria, intergovernmental revenue, recordings, cancellations, court attendance, criminal costs, and charges and commissions for services are treated as susceptible to accrual.

**Expenditures**

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

**E. BUDGET PRACTICES**

A proposed budget, prepared on the modified accrual basis, is published in the official journal at least ten days prior to a public hearing. The public hearing is held at the clerk's office during the month of June for comments from taxpayers. The proposed budget is then legally adopted by the clerk and amended during the year as necessary. Budgets are established and controlled by the clerk at the object level of expenditure.

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
 Ruston, Louisiana  
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Appropriations lapse at year-end and must be reappropriated for the following year to be expended.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statement include the original adopted budget amounts and all subsequent amendments.

**F. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Under state law, the clerk may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the union, or the laws of the United States. The clerk may invest in certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana.

At June 30, 1997, the clerk has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$818,205, as follows:

Demand deposits	\$486,305
Petty cash	400
Time deposits	<u>331,500</u>
Total	<u>\$818,205</u>

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits, or the resulting bank balances, must be fully 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 bank. The 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. Cash and cash equivalents (bank balances) at June 30, 1997, are secured as follows:

Bank balances	<u>\$835,839</u>
Federal deposit insurance	\$813,899
Pledged securities	<u>978,521</u>
Total	<u>\$1,792,420</u>

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Because the pledged securities are held by a custodial bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank rather than in the name of the clerk, they are considered uncollateralized (Category 3) under the provisions of GASB Codification C20.106; however, 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 clerk that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further, LRS 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the clerk's name.

**G. VACATION AND SICK LEAVE**

All employees of the clerk of court's office earn from two to three weeks of vacation leave each year, depending on length of service. All employees of the clerk's office earn five days of sick leave annually. Vacation leave must be used during the year earned. Sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of thirty days. Upon termination of employment, employees are paid for accumulated sick leave at their current rate of pay.

At June 30, 1997, employees had accumulated and vested \$5,840 in sick leave benefits, which is included in general long-term obligations in the accompanying financial statements. The cost of leave privileges is recognized as a current year expenditure when leave is actually taken or when employees are paid for accrued sick leave upon separation of employment.

**II. TOTAL COLUMN ON THE  
BALANCE SHEET**

The total column on the balance sheet is captioned Memorandum Only (overview) to indicate that it is presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in this column does not present financial position 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.

**2. RECEIVABLES**

The General Fund receivables of \$13,361 at June 30, 1997, are as follows:

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
 Ruston, Louisiana  
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Class of receivables:

Fees, charges, and commissions for services:	
Court courts, fees, and charges	\$10,650
Court attendance	520
Criminal fees	<u>2,191</u>
Total	<u>\$13,361</u>

**3. CHANGES IN GENERAL FIXED ASSETS**

A summary of changes in office furnishings and equipment follows:

Balance at July 1, 1995	\$129,826
For the year ended June 30, 1996:	
Additions	4,203
Deletions	(5,128)
For the year ended June 30, 1997:	
Additions	5,100
Deletions	<u>(1,768)</u>
Balance at June 30, 1997	<u>\$132,233</u>

General fixed assets at July 1, 1995 have been restated to reflect change. The clerk reestablished her inventory listing of fixed assets based on actual physical count, removing those items which had been junked in previous years and not removed from the listing and adding items which had been purchased in previous years and not added to the list. For the year ended June 30, 1997, additions include donations from the police jury of \$4,605 for a typewriter, terminal, keyboard, personal computer, desk, and extension.

**4. PENSION PLAN**

Substantially all employees of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court are members of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (System), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by a separate board of trustees.

All regular employees who are under the age of 60 at the time of original employment are required to participate in the System. Employees who retire at or after age 55 with at least 12 years of credited service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 percent of their final



## LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT

Ruston, Louisiana

### Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

average salary for each year of credited service, not to exceed 100 percent of their final-average salary. 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 12 years of service and do not withdraw their employee contributions may retire at or after age 55 and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The System also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established or amended by state statute.

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 Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund, 11745 Bricksome Avenue, Suite B1, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816, or by calling (504) 293-1162.

Plan members are required by state statute to contribute 11.0 percent of their annual covered salary and the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 11.0 percent of annual covered payroll. Contributions to the System also include one-fourth of one percent (one-half of one percent for Orleans Parish) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Lincoln Parish Clerk of 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 Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court's contributions to the System for the years ending June 30, 1997, 1996, and 1995, were \$33,570, \$31,446, and \$22,790, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

#### **5. POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

The Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court provides certain health care and life insurance benefits for retired employees. Substantially all of the clerk's employees become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the clerk of court. These benefits for retirees and similar benefits for active employees are provided through an insurance company whose monthly premiums are paid jointly by the employee and the clerk of court. The clerk of court recognizes the cost of providing these benefits (the clerk's cost of premiums) as an expenditure when the premiums are due, for the two years ended June 30, 1997 and 1996, which were \$51,015 and \$42,795, respectively. Of these amounts, \$4,542 and \$4,091 were for retiree benefits, respectively.

#### **6. CHANGES IN AGENCY FUND BALANCES**

A summary of changes in agency fund balances due to others follows:

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

	Advance Deposit Fund	Registry of Court Fund	Total
Balance at July 1, 1995	\$252,555	\$662,626	\$915,181
For the year ended June 30, 1996:			
Additions	310,123	1,153,848	1,463,971
Deletions	(304,253)	(960,292)	(1,264,545)
For the year ended June 30, 1997:			
Additions	359,037	739,622	1,098,659
Deletions	<u>(349,918)</u>	<u>(1,289,437)</u>	<u>(1,639,355)</u>
Balance at June 30, 1997	<u>\$267,544</u>	<u>\$306,367</u>	<u>\$573,911</u>

**7. CHANGES IN COMPENSATED  
ABSENCES PAYABLE**

Compensated absences payable at July 1, 1995	\$4,397
For the year ended June 30, 1996:	
Adjustments	419
Additions	3,903
Reductions	(5,393)
For the year ended June 30, 1997:	
Adjustments	270
Additions	4,415
Reductions	<u>(2,171)</u>
Compensated absences payable at June 30, 1997	<u>\$5,840</u>

The adjustments to compensated absences are for the change in hourly rates from the beginning of the fiscal period to the end.

**8. LITIGATION AND CLAIMS**

The Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court is not involved in any litigation at June 30, 1997, nor is she aware of any unasserted claims.

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

**9. EXPENDITURES OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
PAID BY THE PARISH POLICE JURY**

The Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court's office is located in the parish courthouse. The cost of maintaining and operating the courthouse, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:4715, is paid by the Lincoln Parish Police Jury.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION SCHEDULES**

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION SCHEDULES  
As of and for the Two Years Ended June 30, 1997

FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE - AGENCY FUNDS

**ADVANCE DEPOSIT FUND**

The Advance Deposit Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:842, accounts for advance deposits on suits filed by litigants. The advances are refundable to the litigants after all costs have been paid.

**REGISTRY OF COURT FUND**

The Registry of Court Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:475, accounts for funds which have been ordered by the court to be held until judgement has been rendered in court litigation. Withdrawals of the funds can be made only upon order of the court.

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE - AGENCY FUNDS

Combining Balance Sheet, June 30, 1997

	<u>ADVANCE DEPOSIT FUND</u>	<u>REGISTRY OF COURT FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$267,544</u>	<u>\$306,367</u>	<u>\$573,911</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Unsettled deposits due to others	<u>\$267,544</u>	<u>\$306,367</u>	<u>\$573,911</u>

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE - AGENCY FUNDS

Combining Schedule of Changes in  
Unsettled Deposits Due to Others  
For the Year Ended June 30, 1997

	ADVANCE DEPOSIT FUND	REGISTRY OF COURT FUND	TOTAL
<b>UNSETTLED DEPOSITS AT JUNE 30, 1996</b>	<u>\$258,425</u>	<u>\$856,182</u>	<u>\$1,114,607</u>
<b>ADDITIONS</b>			
Deposits - suits and successions	359,037	715,571	1,074,608
Interest earned on investments		24,051	24,051
Total additions	<u>359,037</u>	<u>739,622</u>	<u>1,098,659</u>
Total	<u>617,462</u>	<u>1,595,804</u>	<u>2,213,266</u>
<b>REDUCTIONS</b>			
Clerk's costs (transferred to General Fund)	180,167		180,167
Settlements to litigants	77,941	1,289,437	1,367,378
Appraiser, curators, and keepers	2,330		2,330
Stenographer's fees	6,222		6,222
Sheriff's fees	42,642		42,642
Other fees	7,772		7,772
Other reductions	32,844		32,844
Total reductions	<u>349,918</u>	<u>1,289,437</u>	<u>1,639,355</u>
<b>UNSETTLED DEPOSITS AT JUNE 30, 1997</b>	<u>\$267,544</u>	<u>\$306,367</u>	<u>\$573,911</u>

LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Ruston, Louisiana  
FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE - AGENCY FUNDS

Combining Schedule of Changes in  
Unsettled Deposits Due to Others  
For the Year Ended June 30, 1996

	ADVANCE DEPOSIT FUND	REGISTRY OF COURT FUND	TOTAL
<b>UNSETTLED DEPOSITS AT JUNE 30, 1995</b>	<u>\$252,555</u>	<u>\$662,626</u>	<u>\$915,181</u>
<b>ADDITIONS</b>			
Deposits - suits and successions	310,123	1,124,788	1,434,911
Interest earned on investments		29,060	29,060
Total additions	<u>310,123</u>	<u>1,153,848</u>	<u>1,463,971</u>
Total	<u>562,678</u>	<u>1,816,474</u>	<u>2,379,152</u>
<b>REDUCTIONS</b>			
Clerk's costs (transferred to General Fund)	159,109		159,109
Settlements to litigants	64,524	959,805	1,024,329
Appraiser, curators, and keepers	4,480		4,480
Stenographer's fees	6,928		6,928
Sheriff's fees	34,183		34,183
Other fees	5,427		5,427
Other reductions	29,602	487	30,089
Total reductions	<u>304,253</u>	<u>960,292</u>	<u>1,264,545</u>
<b>UNSETTLED DEPOSITS AT JUNE 30, 1996</b>	<u>\$258,425</u>	<u>\$856,182</u>	<u>\$1,114,607</u>



**Independent Auditor's Reports Required  
by *Government Auditing Standards***

The following independent auditor's reports on compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts and internal control structure are presented in compliance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.



**Independent Auditor's Report on  
Compliance with Laws, Regulations, and Contracts**

**LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT**  
Ruston, Louisiana

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court, a component unit of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, as of June 30, 1997, and for the two years then ended, and have issued my report thereon dated November 11, 1997.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. Those standards and the audit guide require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts applicable to the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court, is the responsibility of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court's management. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement, I performed tests of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and contracts. However, the objective of my audit of the general purpose financial statements was not to provide an opinion on overall compliance with such provisions. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA  
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PRACTICE LIMITED TO  
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LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT

Ruston, Louisiana  
Independent Auditor's Report  
on Compliance. etc.,  
June 30, 1997

This report is intended for the use of management of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court. This is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. ...', written in a cursive style.

West Monroe, Louisiana  
November 7, 1997



## Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Structure

### LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT

Ruston, Louisiana

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court, a component unit of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, as of June 30, 1997, and for the two years then ended and have issued my report thereon dated November 7, 1997.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement.

The management of Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of general purpose financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

In planning and performing my audit of the general purpose financial statements of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court for the two years ended June 30, 1997, I obtained an understanding of the internal control structure. With respect to the internal control structure, I obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and whether they have been placed in operation, and I assessed control risk in order

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LINCOLN PARISH CLERK OF COURT

Ruston, Louisiana

Independent Auditor's Report on

Internal Control Structure,

June 30, 1997

to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the general purpose financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control structure. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

My consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities 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. I noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operation that I considered to be material weaknesses as defined above.

This report is intended for the use of management of the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court. This is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.



West Monroe, Louisiana

November 7, 1997