

**ATTESTATION REPORT
OF
DAKOTA COUNTY COURT
JULY 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010**

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Issued on April 15, 2011

DAKOTA COUNTY COURT

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DAKOTA COUNTY COURT

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

During our examination of Dakota County Court, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting that is presented here. The comment and recommendation is intended to improve the internal control over financial reporting in the following area:

Segregation of Duties

Good internal control includes a plan of organization, procedures, and records designed to safeguard assets and provide reliable financial records. A system of internal control should include proper segregation of duties so no one individual is capable of handling all phases of a transaction from beginning to end.

We noted the office of the County Court had a lack of segregation of duties, as one person was capable of handling all aspects of processing transactions from beginning to end. A lack of segregation of duties increases the risk of possible errors or irregularities; however, due to a limited number of personnel, an adequate segregation of duties is not possible without additional cost. Further, personnel are under the direction of both the Nebraska State Court Administrator and the Presiding Judge.

We have noted this comment in previous examinations.

We recommend the County Court and the Nebraska State Court Administrator review this situation. As always, the cost of hiring additional personnel versus the benefit of a proper segregation of duties must be weighed.

It should be noted this report is critical in nature as it contains only our comment and recommendation on the area noted for improvement and does not include our observations on any accounting strengths of the County Court.

Draft copies of this report were furnished to the County Court to provide them an opportunity to review the report and to respond to the comment and recommendation included in this report. The County Court declined to respond.

We appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended to our auditors during the course of the examination.



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DAKOTA COUNTY COURT

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

We have examined the accompanying Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions of Dakota County Court as of and for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2010, and June 30, 2009. The County Court's management is responsible for the Schedules. Our responsibility is to express an opinion based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the Schedules and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the Schedules referred to above present, in all material respects, the assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the Agency Funds of Dakota County Court as of June 30, 2010, and June 30, 2009, and the related activity for the fiscal years then ended, based on the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court as described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 24, 2011, on our consideration of Dakota County Court's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an attestation engagement performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our examination.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Supreme Court, others within the County Court, and the appropriate Federal and regulatory agencies. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Signed Original on File

March 24, 2011

Timothy J. Channer, CPA
Assistant Deputy Auditor

DAKOTA COUNTY COURT
DAKOTA CITY, NEBRASKA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
AGENCY FUNDS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010

	Balance July 1, 2009	Additions	Deductions	Balance June 30, 2010
ASSETS				
Cash and Deposits	\$ 174,049	\$ 1,311,551	\$ 1,314,943	\$ 170,657
LIABILITIES				
Due to State Treasurer:				
Regular Fees	\$ 13,009	\$ 173,568	\$ 172,126	\$ 14,451
Law Enforcement Fees	926	14,972	14,342	1,556
State Judges Retirement Fund	3,533	50,752	49,451	4,834
Court Administrative Fees	8,306	132,451	128,162	12,595
Legal Services Fees	4,378	55,978	55,061	5,295
Due to County Treasurer:				
Regular Fines	34,041	508,722	497,001	45,762
Overload Fines	975	24,450	24,275	1,150
Regular Fees	2,465	67,728	65,669	4,524
Due to Municipalities:				
Regular Fines	562	10,343	10,168	737
Regular Fees	105	2,093	1,904	294
Trust Fund Payable	105,749	270,494	296,784	79,459
Total Liabilities	\$ 174,049	\$ 1,311,551	\$ 1,314,943	\$ 170,657

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the schedule.

DAKOTA COUNTY COURT
DAKOTA CITY, NEBRASKA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
AGENCY FUNDS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009

	Balance July 1, 2008	Additions	Deductions	Balance June 30, 2009
ASSETS				
Cash and Deposits	\$ 210,768	\$ 1,332,337	\$ 1,369,056	\$ 174,049
LIABILITIES				
Due to State Treasurer:				
Regular Fees	\$ 16,849	\$ 177,533	\$ 181,373	\$ 13,009
Law Enforcement Fees	1,144	12,526	12,744	926
State Judges Retirement Fund	4,478	48,034	48,979	3,533
Court Administrative Fees	11,563	142,796	146,053	8,306
Legal Services Fees	5,460	58,757	59,839	4,378
Due to County Treasurer:				
Regular Fines	43,115	504,315	513,389	34,041
Overload Fines	5,750	41,190	45,965	975
Regular Fees	1,779	77,252	76,566	2,465
Due to Municipalities:				
Regular Fines	450	6,957	6,845	562
Regular Fees	280	3,085	3,260	105
Trust Fund Payable	119,900	259,892	274,043	105,749
Total Liabilities	\$ 210,768	\$ 1,332,337	\$ 1,369,056	\$ 174,049

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the schedule.

DAKOTA COUNTY COURT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL SCHEDULES
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2010, and June 30, 2009

1. Criteria

A. Reporting Entity

The Dakota County Court is established by State Statute and is administratively operated through the Court Administrator's Office of the Nebraska Supreme Court, which is part of the State of Nebraska reporting entity. The Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions of the County Court reflect only the Agency Funds activity of the County Court; the receipts, and their subsequent disbursement to the appropriate entities for which they were collected. The Schedules do not reflect the personal services expenses of the County Court, which are paid by the Nebraska Supreme Court, or the operating expenses, which are paid by Dakota County.

B. Basis of Accounting

The accounting records of the County Court Agency Funds are maintained, and the Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions have been prepared, based on the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court. Under this system of accounting, fines, fees, and receipts relating to trust funds are shown as additions to assets and as an increase in the related liability when received. Likewise, disbursements are shown as deductions to assets and a decrease in the related liability when a check is written.

2. Deposits and Investments

Funds held by the County Court are deposited and invested in accordance with rules issued by the Supreme Court as directed by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 25-2713 (Reissue 2008). Funds are generally consolidated in an interest-bearing checking account; however, the County Court may order certain trust funds to be invested separately. Any deposits in excess of the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation are required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-2326.04 (Reissue 2009) to be secured either by a surety bond or as provided in the Public Funds Deposit Security Act.



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DAKOTA COUNTY COURT REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN EXAMINATION OF THE FINANCIAL SCHEDULES PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

We have examined the accompanying Schedules of Dakota County Court as of and for the years ended June 30, 2010, and June 30, 2009, and have issued our report thereon dated March 24, 2011. We conducted our examination in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our examination, we considered Dakota County Court's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the Schedules, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County Court's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County Court's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses have been identified. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's Schedules will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the following deficiency described in the Comments Section of the report to be a material weakness: Segregation of Duties.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Dakota County Court's financial schedule is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial schedule amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our examination, and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Supreme Court, others within the County Court, and the appropriate Federal and regulatory agencies. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

March 24, 2011

Signed Original on File

Timothy J. Channer, CPA
Assistant Deputy Auditor