

STATE OF LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

Court of Appeal, Second Circuit
State of Louisiana
Shreveport, Louisiana

December 3, 1997



Financial and Compliance Audit Division

***Daniel G. Kyle, Ph.D., CPA, CFE
Legislative Auditor***

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**COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Shreveport, Louisiana**

**Special Purpose Financial Statements
and Independent Auditor's Reports
As of and for the Year Ended June 30, 1997**

Under the provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of this report has been submitted to the Governor, to the Attorney General, and to other public officials as required by state law. A copy of this report has been made available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge and Shreveport offices of the Legislative Auditor and at the office of the parish clerk of court.

December 3, 1997

**COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**Special Purpose Financial Statements and
Independent Auditor's Reports
As of and for the Year Ended June 30, 1997**

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October 30, 1997

Independent Auditor's Report
on the Financial Statements

COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Shreveport, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying special purpose (legal basis) financial statements of the Court of Appeal, Second Circuit, a court within Louisiana state government, as of and for the year ended June 30, 1997, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of management of the Court of Appeal, Second Circuit. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

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

As described in note 1-B to the financial statements, the accompanying special purpose financial statements present only the funds of the Court of Appeal, Second Circuit. As such, they present the appropriated and non-appropriated activity of the court that are part of the accounts and fund structure of the State of Louisiana. The General Appropriation Fund reflects appropriated activity of the court that is part of the General Fund of the State of Louisiana. The non-appropriated fund is an individual fund of the State of Louisiana not subject to budgetary control. Furthermore, the special purpose financial statements have been prepared on a legal basis of accounting, the purpose of which is to reflect compliance with the annual appropriation act for the appropriated fund and the financial position of the non-appropriated fund. These procedures differ from generally accepted accounting principles as described in the notes to the financial statements. Accordingly, the accompanying special purpose financial statements are not intended to and do not present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Audit Report, June 30, 1997

In our opinion, the special purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the balances within the appropriated and non-appropriated funds of the Court of Appeal, Second Circuit at June 30, 1997, and the transactions of such funds for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in note 1-D.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated October 30, 1997, on our consideration of the Court of Appeal, Second Circuit's internal control over financial reporting and our test of compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel G. Kyle, CPA, CFE
Legislative Auditor

AKK:MAN:sds

[CIRCRT-2]

**COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
ALL APPROPRIATED AND NON-
APPROPRIATED FUNDS**

Balance Sheet (Legal Basis), June 30, 1997

	APPROPRIATED FUND - GENERAL APPROPRIATION	NON- APPROPRIATED FUND - FEE ACCOUNT	TOTAL (MEMORANDUM ONLY)
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents (note 1-E)	\$9,723	\$626,776	\$636,499
Accounts receivable	33,606	6,065	39,671
Due from other fund	584		584
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$43,913	\$632,841	\$676,754
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$40,748	\$972	\$41,720
Accrued liabilities	3,165		3,165
Due to other fund		584	584
Total Liabilities	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	43,913	1,556	45,469
Fund Equity - fund balance - reserved for continuing operations (note 5)	NONE	631,285	631,285
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	\$43,913	\$632,841	\$676,754

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

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**COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
ALL APPROPRIATED AND NON-
APPROPRIATED FUNDS**

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance (Legal Basis)
For the Year Ended June 30, 1997**

	APPROPRIATED FUND - GENERAL APPROPRIATION	NON- APPROPRIATED FUND - FEE ACCOUNT	TOTAL (MEMORANDUM ONLY)
REVENUES			
Filing fees		\$91,717	\$91,717
Use of money and property - interest earnings	\$2,848	23,012	25,860
Miscellaneous		15,993	15,993
Total revenues	<u>2,848</u>	<u>130,722</u>	<u>133,570</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Appropriated expenditures:			
Personal services	2,060,778		2,060,778
Travel	90,025		90,025
Operating supplies and services	326,982		326,982
Capital outlay	59,582		59,582
Other charges	48,510		48,510
Non-appropriated expenditures:			
Travel		2,207	2,207
Operating supplies and services		8,136	8,136
Association dues		2,099	2,099
Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund		7,810	7,810
Total expenditures	<u>2,585,877</u>	<u>20,252</u>	<u>2,606,129</u>
EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>(2,583,029)</u>	<u>110,470</u>	<u>(2,472,559)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (Uses)			
Transfer from Supreme Court	2,582,445		2,582,445
Operating transfers in	584		584
Operating transfers out		(584)	(584)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>2,583,029</u>	<u>(584)</u>	<u>2,582,445</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	NONE	109,886	109,886
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	NONE	521,399	521,399
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	NONE	<u>\$631,285</u>	<u>\$631,285</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

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**COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
As of and for the Year Ended June 30, 1997

INTRODUCTION

The Court of Appeal, Second Circuit is a part of the State of Louisiana reporting entity, within the judicial branch of government. The court is provided for in Article V, Sections 8 through 13 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and Sections 311 through 392 of Title 13 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. The court's operations are funded through an annual lapsing appropriation made by the Louisiana Legislature and from self-generated revenues authorized by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 13:352. In addition to the fees mandated by R.S. 13:352 relative to appeals, applications for writs, motions filed on unlogged appeals and answers to appeals, the court, in compliance with Act 63 of the 1985 Session of the Louisiana Legislature and in conformity with the Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund, charges an additional fee of \$14.50. The total amount collected in connection with the Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund is remitted to the Judicial Administrator's Office of the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

The Court of Appeal, Second Circuit has appellate jurisdiction as authorized under Article V, Section 5 of the Louisiana Constitution, which encompasses the parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Claiborne, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll, Winn, and Webster. The Court of Appeal, Second Circuit has supervisory jurisdiction, subject to the general supervisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, over all lower courts in all cases in which an appeal would extend to the court of appeal. The Second Circuit is domiciled in Shreveport, Louisiana, and has 9 judges and 48 other employees.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) promulgates generally accepted accounting principles and reporting standards for state and local government. These principles are found in the *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards*, published by the GASB. However, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared on a legal basis, which differs from generally accepted accounting principles as explained in the following notes.

COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

B. REPORTING ENTITY

GASB Codification Section 2100 has defined the governmental reporting entity to be the State of Louisiana. The court is considered within the State of Louisiana reporting entity because the state exercises oversight responsibility and has accountability for fiscal matters as follows: (1) the state has control and exercises authority over budget matters; (2) state appropriations provide the largest percentage of total revenues; and (3) the court primarily serves state residents. The accompanying financial statements present information only as to the transactions of the court.

The accompanying financial statements represent activity of the court within the judicial branch of state government and, therefore, are a part of the fund and account group structure of the State of Louisiana and its general purpose financial statements. Annually, the State of Louisiana issues general purpose financial statements. The general purpose financial statements are audited by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

C. FUND ACCOUNTING

The Court of Appeal, Second Circuit uses fund accounting, along appropriation lines, to reflect its compliance with provisions of the annual appropriation act and to reflect the financial position and results of operations of its non-appropriated funds. This differs from the fund accounting of generally accepted accounting principles where the intent is to measure the financial position and results of operations of the governmental reporting entity as a whole. Therefore, the funds within the accompanying financial statements have been divided between appropriated and non-appropriated funds and not by the conventional fund types of generally accepted accounting principles.

The funds do not include any noncurrent assets or liabilities. Noncurrent assets, general fixed assets, and long-term liabilities are reflected in the State of Louisiana's general purpose financial statements.

The funds presented in the special purpose financial statements are described as follows:

General Appropriation Fund

The General Appropriation Fund provides for the general administrative expenditures of the court.

COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Non-Appropriated Fund - Fee Account

The Fee Account is used to account for filing fees and other revenues received by the court as provided by R.S. 13:352. Expenditures incurred in excess of the amount appropriated by the legislature (General Appropriation Fund) are funded from this account.

D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. The funds in the accompanying financial statements measure the resources provided by the legislature to fund current-year expenditures and the use of those resources by the court. This differs from generally accepted accounting principles in which the measurement focus would be to measure the flow of current resources.

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized and reported in the financial statements, regardless of the measurement focus applied. The accompanying financial statements reflect revenues and expenditures in accordance with applicable statutory provisions and regulations of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board. These legal requirements differ from generally accepted accounting principles as follows:

1. Revenues are recognized to the extent that they have been appropriated and not necessarily when measurable and available.
2. Expenditures are recognized to the extent that appropriation authority has been extended to the court and not necessarily when the fund liability has been incurred.

Under the foregoing legal provisions, the court uses the following practices in recognizing revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

Self-generated revenues are recognized when earned.

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. Furthermore, any expenditure of a long-term nature for which funds have not been appropriated during the current year is not recognized in the accompanying financial statements.

COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Other Financing Sources (Uses)

The transfer from the Supreme Court represents the appropriation from the state General Fund. The transfer is recognized in the amount appropriated, to the extent withdrawn from the state treasury. Operating transfers are recognized when they become measurable and available.

E. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents (book balances) are composed of the following:

Petty cash	\$100
Cash in demand accounts	186,399
Certificates of deposit	<u>450,000</u>
Total	<u><u>\$636,499</u></u>

Cash and cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These pledged 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. The court has deposit balances (collected bank balances) of \$686,308 at June 30, 1997, for which the court has control. These deposits are secured from risk by \$200,000 of federal deposit insurance (GASB Risk Category 1) and \$486,308 of pledged securities held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding bank (GASB Risk Category 3).

F. GENERAL FIXED ASSETS

The court values its general fixed assets at historical cost at the time of acquisition. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets. The general fixed assets are not reflected within the accompanying special purpose financial statements. A summary of changes in general fixed assets follows:

**COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA**
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

	<u>Balance July 1, 1996</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance June 30, 1997</u>
Land	\$606,254			\$606,254
Buildings	3,275,243			3,275,243
Movable property	820,847	\$15,775	\$163,005	673,617
Library books	275,603	9,324		284,927
Total	<u>\$4,977,947</u>	<u>\$25,099</u>	<u>\$163,005</u>	<u>\$4,840,041</u>

G. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

The court is by statute not allowed to incur bonded indebtedness and, therefore, no recognition within the accompanying financial statements is necessary. Furthermore, any long-term obligations of the court arising from lease commitments, judgments, compensated absences, or any other source are not recognized in the accompanying special purpose financial statements.

H. BUDGET PRACTICES

The general appropriation made for the operations of the court is an annual lapsing appropriation. Amounts not expended or encumbered should be returned to the state General Fund on or before September 1, 1997.

The court has no encumbrances outstanding at June 30, 1997. The accompanying financial statements do not present a budgetary comparison because the appropriated fund is budgeted in lump sum and the non-appropriated fund is not subject to budgetary control. The appropriation act appropriates to the court any interest that it earns. Budget revisions are granted by the Judicial Budgetary Control Board as provided by Act 35 of 1996. The Judicial Budgetary Control Board approved a net increase of \$32,645 from the original appropriation of \$2,549,800.

I. JUDGES' SALARIES

The salaries of the judges are paid directly by the Supreme Court of Louisiana with warrants drawn on the state treasury and are not included in the expenditures of the accompanying financial statements.

**COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA**
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

J. LEAVE BENEFITS

Employees of the court earn annual and sick leave at various rates, depending on their years of service, without limitation on the balance that can be accumulated. Accumulated annual and sick leave can be applied toward additional credited service for retirement purposes in accordance with the rules and regulations of the employee's retirement system. Employees are not compensated for unused annual or sick leave.

K. TOTAL COLUMNS ON STATEMENTS

The total columns on the statements are captioned Memorandum Only (overview) to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in these columns do not present financial position or results of operations. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation.

2. PENSION PLANS

Substantially all employees of the court are members of the Louisiana Clerks Retirement and Relief Fund (LCRRF), the Louisiana State Employees Retirement System (LASERS), or the Social Security System (SSS). The LCRRF and LASERS are statewide cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans administered by separate boards of trustees. Both plans provide retirement, disability, and survivors' benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefits granted by LASERS are guaranteed by the State of Louisiana by provisions of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974. Generally, permanent employees are eligible to participate in the retirement systems, with employee benefits vesting after 10 years of service. The systems issue annual publicly available financial reports that include financial statements and required supplementary information for the systems. The reports may be obtained by writing to the Louisiana Clerks Retirement and Relief Fund, 11745 Bricksome Avenue, Suite B1, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816, or by calling (504) 256-6660 and/or the Louisiana State Employees Retirement System, Post Office Box 44213, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804, or by calling (504) 922-0600.

The contribution requirements of plan members and the court are established and may be amended by the state legislature. The legislature annually sets the required employer contribution rate equal to the actuarially required employer contribution as set forth in R.S. 11:102. Employees contribute 8.25 percent (LCRRF), 7.5 percent (LASERS), and 7.65 percent for the SSS of covered salaries. The state is required to contribute 11 percent of covered salaries to LCRRF, 12.4 percent of covered salaries to LASERS, and 7.65 percent of covered salaries to the SSS. The court's employer contribution is funded by the State of Louisiana through the annual appropriation to the court. The court's employer contribution to

COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Notes to the Financial Statements (Concluded)

LCRRF for the years ended June 30, 1997, 1996, 1995, were \$25,492, \$24,394, and \$20,619, respectively, to LASERS for the years ended June 30, 1997, 1996, 1995, were \$148,078, \$89,093, and \$85,823, respectively, and to SSS for the years ended June 30, 1997, 1996, 1995, were \$74,688, \$57,827, and \$55,100, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year for each retirement system.

**3. POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE
AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS**

The court provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees. Substantially all of the court's employees become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the 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 court. The court recognized the cost of providing these benefits (court's portion of premiums) as an expenditure when paid during the year. The court's cost of providing retiree health care and life insurance benefits are recognized as expenditures when the monthly premiums are paid. For the year ended June 30, 1997, the cost of retiree benefits totaled \$26,192.

**4. JUDGMENTS, CLAIMS, AND
SIMILAR CONTINGENCIES**

Obligations and losses arising from judgments, claims, and similar contingencies are paid through the state's self-insurance fund or by General Fund appropriation and are not reflected in the accompanying special purpose financial statements. The self-insurance fund is operated by the Office of Risk Management, the state agency responsible for the state's self-insurance program.

5. RESERVED FOR CONTINUING OPERATIONS

As shown on Statement A, the Non-Appropriated Fund - Fee Account has a reserve for continuing operations totaling \$631,285. These funds may be retained and used to defray the expenditures of the court as prescribed by R.S. 13:352.

6. DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

Certain employees of the court participate in the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Plan adopted under the provisions of Internal Revenue Code Section 457. Complete disclosures relating to this statewide plan are available in the financial statements of the State of Louisiana.

**OTHER REPORT REQUIRED BY
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

The following pages contain a report on compliance with laws and regulations and on internal controls as required by *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. This report is based solely on the audit of the financial statements and includes, where appropriate, any reportable conditions and/or material weaknesses in internal control or compliance matters that would be material to the presented financial statements.



DANIEL G. KYLE, PH.D., CPA, CFE
LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

OFFICE OF
LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
STATE OF LOUISIANA
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October 30, 1997

Report on Compliance and on Internal Control over Financial
Reporting Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in
Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Shreveport, Louisiana

We have audited the special purpose financial statements of the Court of Appeal, Second Circuit as of and for the year ended June 30, 1997, and have issued our report thereon dated October 30, 1997. 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 Court of Appeal, Second Circuit's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, 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 Court of Appeal, Second Circuit's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the 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 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 court's internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

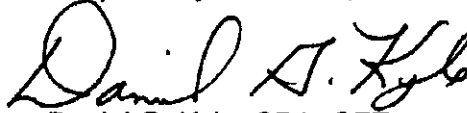
EXHIBIT A

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Compliance and Internal Control Report
October 30, 1997
Page 2

This report is intended for the information and use of the court and its management. By provisions of state law, this report is a public document, and it has been distributed to appropriate public officials.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel G. Kyle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Daniel G. Kyle, CPA, CFE
Legislative Auditor

AKK:MAN:sds

[CIRCRT-2]

EXHIBIT A