

# **COURT OF APPEAL, FIFTH CIRCUIT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA

FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES

**Procedural Report**  
**Issued June 14, 2023**

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# Louisiana Legislative Auditor

Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA



Court of Appeal, Fifth Circuit

June 2023

Audit Control # 80230040

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## Introduction

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The primary purpose of our procedures at the Court of Appeal, Fifth Circuit (Court) was to evaluate certain controls the Court uses to ensure accurate financial reporting, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and accountability over public funds. In addition, we determined whether management has taken action to correct the finding reported in the prior report.

## Results of Our Procedures

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We evaluated the Court's operations and system of internal control through inquiry, observation, and review of its policies and procedures, including a review of the applicable laws and regulations. Based on the documentation of the Court's controls and our understanding of related laws and regulations, and the results of our analytical procedures, we performed procedures relating to cash, self-generated revenues, and non-payroll expenditures. In addition, we performed further analytical procedures relating to payroll expenditures.

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### Follow-up on Prior-report Finding

We reviewed the status of the prior-report finding in the Court's procedural report dated July 26, 2021. We determined that management has resolved the prior-report finding related to Inaccurate Recording of Non-payroll Expenditure Transactions.

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### Cash

The Court maintains four bank accounts. The cash balance as of June 30, 2022, per the Court's Annual Fiscal Report was \$935,022. We obtained an understanding of the Court's controls over the bank accounts, evaluated the segregation of duties, and reviewed bank statements and bank reconciliations. Based on the results of our procedures, the Court had adequate controls in place to ensure timely preparation, review, and approval of bank reconciliations.

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## Self-generated Revenues

The Court's operations are funded through appropriations and through self-generated revenues from filing and copy fees authorized and determined by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:352. Our procedures included a review of the Court's collection of filing fees. Based on the results of our procedures, the Court had adequate controls in place to ensure that filing fees were collected for the correct amount, deposits were accurate and timely, and that the transactions were properly recorded.

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## Non-Payroll Expenditures

Based on risks identified at the Court, we performed procedures to determine that non-payroll related expenditures complied with established policies and state regulations. We also ensured that these expenditures were supported by receipts or other appropriate documents. Based on the results of our procedures, the Court had adequate controls in place to ensure that non-payroll expenditures were supported and were processed in accordance with applicable policies and regulations.

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## Payroll Expenditures

Based on the significance of payroll expenditures at the Court, we obtained an understanding of the Court's controls over the time and attendance function, and leave records. We performed analytical procedures on payroll expenditures and obtained explanations from the Court's management for any significant variances. Based on the results of our procedures, we determined that noted variances in payroll expenditures were reasonable.

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## Trend Analysis

We compared the most current and prior-year financial activity using the Court's Annual Fiscal Reports and/or system-generated reports and obtained explanations from the Court's management for any significant variances.

Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is a public document, and it has been distributed to appropriate public officials.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA  
Legislative Auditor

## APPENDIX A: SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

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We performed certain procedures at the Court of Appeal, Fifth Circuit (Court) for the period from July 1, 2021, through June 13, 2023. Our objective was to evaluate certain controls the Court uses to ensure accurate financial reporting, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and accountability over public funds. The scope of our procedures, which is summarized below, was significantly less than an audit conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. We did not audit or review the Court's Annual Fiscal Reports, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion on those reports. The Court's accounts are an integral part of the state of Louisiana's financial statements, upon which the Louisiana Legislative Auditor expresses opinions.

- We evaluated the Court's operations and system of internal controls through inquiry, observation, and review of its policies and procedures, including a review of the laws and regulations applicable to the Court.
- Based on the documentation of the Court's controls and our understanding of related laws and regulations, and results of our analytical procedures, we performed procedures relating to cash, self-generated revenues, and non-payroll expenditures. In addition, we performed further analytical procedures relating to payroll expenditures.
- We compared the most current and prior-year financial activity using the Court's Annual Fiscal Reports and/or system-generated reports to identify trends and obtained explanations from the Court's management for any significant variances that could potentially indicate areas of risk.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our work at the Court and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Court's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. Accordingly, this report is not intended to be, and should not be, used for any other purpose.