

**VERNON PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
LEESVILLE, LOUISIANA**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
JUNE 30, 2019**

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Leesville, Louisiana

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Page</u>
Required Supplementary Information		
Management's Discussion and Analysis	-	1-5
Independent Auditor's Report	-	6-8
Basic Financial Statements		
Government-Wide Financial Statements		
Statement of Net Position	A	11
Statement of Activities	B	12
Fund Financial Statements		
Balance Sheet-Governmental Fund	C	14
Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position	D	15
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance-Governmental Fund	E	16
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities	F	17
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	G	18
Notes to Financial Statements	-	20-39
Other Required Supplementary Information		
Budgetary Comparison Schedule-General Fund	H	41
Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability	I	42
Schedule of Employer Contributions	J	43
Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios	K	44
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Heads or Chief Executive Officer	L	45
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	M	46

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Leesville, Louisiana

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Page</u>
Other Reports		
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	N	48-49
Schedule of Audit Findings	O	50-51
Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures	P	52-58

# Vernon Parish Clerk of Court

P. O. Box 40  
Leesville, LA 71446

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS for the Year Ended June 30, 2019

The Management's Discussion and Analysis of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court's financial performance presents a narrative overview and analysis of the Clerk of Court's financial activities for the year ended June 30, 2019. This document focuses on the current year's activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts. Please read this document in conjunction with the additional information contained in the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court's financial statements, which begin on page 11.

### Financial Highlights

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the Clerk of Court as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Clerk of Court's finances. These statements tell how these services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.

- 1) The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court had cash and investments of \$958,437 at June 30, 2019, which represents an increase of \$365,646 from the prior year.
- 2) The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court had revenue receivable of \$46,840 at June 30, 2019, which represents a decrease of \$8,213 from the prior year.
- 3) The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court had accounts payable and accruals of \$38,709 at June 30, 2019, which represents an increase of \$26,650 from the prior year.
- 4) The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court had total revenues of \$1,812,922 for the year ended June 30, 2019, which represents a decrease of \$24,007 from the prior year.

## Overview of the Financial Statements

The following illustrates the minimum requirements for the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court as established by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis-for State and Local Governments*.

### Management's Discussion and Analysis Basic Financial Statements Required Supplementary Information (Other than MD&A)

These financial statements consist of three sections - Management's Discussion and Analysis (this section), the basic financial statements (including the notes to the financial statements), and required supplementary information.

## Basic Financial Statements

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position (on page 11) and the Statement of Activities (on page 12) provide information about the activities of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Clerk of Court's finances. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities report the Clerk of Court's net position and changes in it. You can think of the Clerk of Court's net position, the difference between assets and liabilities, as one way to measure the Clerk of Court's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Clerk of Court's net position is one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating.

Fund financial statements start on page 14. All of the Clerk of Court's basic services are reported in a governmental fund, which focus on how money flows into and out of this fund and the balance left at year end that is available for spending. The fund is reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted into cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short term view of the Clerk of Court's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Clerk of Court's activities as well as what remains for future spending.

A summary of the basic government-wide financial statements is as follows:

Summary of Statement of Net Position

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
ASSETS:		
Current and Other Assets	\$ <u>1,026,165</u>	\$ <u>668,479</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES:	\$ <u>492,761</u>	\$ <u>216,305</u>
LIABILITIES:		
Other Liabilities	\$ 38,709	\$ 12,059
Compensated Absences	53,678	54,213
Other Post Employment Benefits	2,257,047	2,240,226
Net Pension Liability	<u>1,141,194</u>	<u>987,106</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ <u>3,490,628</u>	\$ <u>3,293,604</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:	\$ <u>227,258</u>	\$ <u>142,994</u>
NET POSITION:		
Unrestricted	\$( <u>2,198,960</u> )	\$( <u>2,551,814</u> )

Net position of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court increased by \$352,854 from the previous fiscal year.

## Summary of Statement of Activities

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
REVENUES:		
Charges for Services	\$1,672,481	\$1,692,127
Operating Grants & Contributions	24,500	22,900
Capital Grants & Contributions	0	41,904
General Revenues	<u>115,941</u>	<u>79,998</u>
Total Revenues	\$1,812,922	\$1,836,929
EXPENDITURES:		
Expenses	<u>1,460,068</u>	<u>1,371,070</u>
Change in Net Position	\$ <u>352,854</u>	\$ <u>465,859</u>

Debt Administration

The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court had \$53,678 in compensated absences, \$2,257,047 in Other Post Employment Benefits, and \$1,141,194 in Net Pension Liability outstanding at year end. This represents differences of \$(535), \$16,821 and \$154,088, respectively, as compared to the previous year, as shown in the table below.

## Outstanding Debt at Year End

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Compensated Absences	\$ 53,678	\$ 54,213
Other Post Employment Benefits	2,257,047	2,240,226
Net Pension Liability	<u>1,141,194</u>	<u>987,106</u>
Total	<u>\$3,451,919</u>	<u>\$3,281,545</u>

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget

The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court's elected official considered the following factors and indicators when setting next year's budget, rates and fees. These factors and indicators include:

1. Fees
2. Interest income
3. Miscellaneous revenues
4. Personnel costs
5. Other costs

The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court does not expect any significant changes in next year's results as compared to the current year.

Contacting the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens and creditors with a general overview of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court's finances and to show the Clerk of Court's accountability for the money it receives. Any questions about this report or requests for additional information may be directed to the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court at P. O. Box 40, Leesville, LA 71446.

**T | C | B | T**  
**THOMAS, CUNNINGHAM, BROADWAY & TODTENBIER**  
*Certified Public Accountants*

Eddie G. Johnson, CPA – A Professional Corporation (1927-1996)

Mark D. Thomas, CPA – A Professional Corporation  
Roger M. Cunningham, CPA – A Professional Corporation  
Jessica H. Broadway, CPA – A Professional Corporation  
Ryan E. Todtenbier, CPA – A Professional Corporation

321 Bienville Street  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457  
(318) 352-3652  
Fax (318) 352-4447  
[www.tcbtcpa.com](http://www.tcbtcpa.com)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Honorable Jeff Skidmore  
Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
P. O. Box 40  
Leesville, Louisiana 71446

**Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, major fund and fiduciary funds of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court, a component unit of the Vernon Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk of Court's basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

## **Opinions**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, major fund and fiduciary funds information of the Clerk as of June 30, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Other Matters**

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the Management's Discussion and Analysis in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the introductory section because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### *Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Clerk's basic financial statements. The Budgetary Comparison Schedule, Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability, Schedule of Employer Contributions, Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios, Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer, and the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position listed as other required supplementary information in the Table of Contents, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The Budgetary Comparison Schedule, Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability, Schedule of Employer Contributions, Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios, Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer and the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

### *Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 11, 2019, on our consideration of the Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

***Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements***

In accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, we have issued a report dated November 11, 2019, on the results of our state wide agree-upon procedures performed 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*. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those control and compliance areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's state wide agreed-upon procedures, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance.

*Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's*

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's  
Natchitoches, Louisiana

November 11, 2019

## BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Statement of Net Position  
June 30, 2019

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS:	
Current Assets-	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 604,778
Investments	353,659
Revenue Receivable	46,840
Prepaid Expense	<u>20,888</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 1,026,165</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES:	
Pension	\$ 336,838
OPEB	<u>155,923</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 492,761</u>
LIABILITIES:	
Current Liabilities-	
Accounts Payable	\$ <u>38,709</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities-	
Compensated Absences	\$ 53,678
Other Post-Employment Benefits	2,257,047
Net Pension Liability	<u>1,141,194</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>\$ 3,451,919</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 3,490,628</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:	
Pension	\$ 92,659
OPEB	<u>134,599</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 227,258</u>
NET POSITION:	
Unrestricted	<u>\$(2,198,960)</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Statement of Activities  
June 30, 2019

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Revenues</u>			<u>Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position Governmental Activities</u>
		<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Capital Grants and Contributions</u>	
Governmental Activities:					
Judicial	\$ <u>1,460,068</u>	\$ <u>1,672,481</u>	\$ <u>24,500</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>236,913</u>
		General Revenues:			
				Interest	\$ 40,564
				Nonemployer Pension Revenue	75,259
				Miscellaneous	<u>118</u>
				Total General Revenues	\$ <u>115,941</u>
				Change in Net Position	\$ 352,854
				Net Position June 30, 2018	<u>(2,551,814)</u>
				Net Position June 30, 2019	\$ <u>(2,198,960)</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

## FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Balance Sheet-Governmental Fund  
June 30, 2019

	<u>General Fund</u>
ASSETS:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 604,778
Investments	353,659
Revenue Receivable	46,840
Prepaid Expense	<u>20,888</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$1,026,165</u>
LIABILITIES:	
Accounts Payable	\$ <u>38,709</u>
FUND BALANCE:	
Nonspendable- Prepaid Expense	\$ 20,888
Unassigned	<u>966,568</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 987,456</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	<u>\$1,026,165</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund  
Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position  
June 30, 2019

Total Fund Balance for the Governmental Fund at June 30, 2019	\$ 987,456
Total Net Position reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Net Position is different because:	
The following used in Governmental Activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet-	
Deferred Outflows of Resources	492,761
The following are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet-	
Compensated Absences	(53,678)
Other Post Employment Benefits	(2,257,047)
Net Pension Liability	(1,141,194)
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>(227,258)</u>
Total Net Position of Governmental Activities at June 30, 2019	<u>\$(2,198,960)</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance  
Governmental Fund  
June 30, 2019

	<u>General Fund</u>
REVENUES:	
Licenses & Permits	\$ 7,918
Charges for Services	1,664,563
Intergovernmental- Supplemental Compensation Fund	24,500
Miscellaneous- Interest	40,564
Other	<u>118</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$1,737,663</u>
EXPENDITURES:	
Judicial- Current- Personnel Services	\$1,176,311
Operating Services	139,289
Operating Supplies	51,163
Other Charges	<u>39,863</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$1,406,626</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 331,037
Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	<u>656,419</u>
Fund Balance-End of Year	<u>\$ 987,456</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures  
and Changes in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund  
to the Statement of Activities  
for the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Total Net Change in Fund Balance at June 30, 2019, per Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance	\$331,037
The Change in Net Position reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Activities is different because:	
Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance	75,259
Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and are not reported as expenditures in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance-	
Change in Compensated Absences	535
Change in Other Post Employment Benefits	11,634
Change in Pension Expense	<u>(65,611)</u>
Total Changes in Net Position at June 30, 2019, per Statement of Activities	<u>\$352,854</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position  
Fiduciary Funds  
June 30, 2019

	Advance Deposit <u>Fund</u>	Registry of Court <u>Fund</u>	Civil Jury <u>Fund</u>	Non- Support <u>Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS:					
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,549,152	\$180,514	\$214,791	\$ 4,983	\$1,949,440
Investments	252,157	0	0	0	252,157
Revenue Receivable	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,718</u>	<u>7,718</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$1,801,309</u>	<u>\$180,514</u>	<u>\$214,791</u>	<u>\$12,701</u>	<u>\$2,209,315</u>
LIABILITIES:					
Due to Others	<u>\$1,801,309</u>	<u>\$180,514</u>	<u>\$214,791</u>	<u>\$12,701</u>	<u>\$2,209,315</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

Introduction:

As provided by Article V, Section 28 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court serves as the ex-officio notary public, the recorder of conveyances, mortgages, and other acts, and has other duties and powers provided by law. The Clerk of Court is elected for a four-year term.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION-

The accompanying financial statements of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court have been prepared in conformity with governmental accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The accompanying basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement No. 34, Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments, issued in June 1999.

B. REPORTING ENTITY-

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Vernon Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for Vernon Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (b) other 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 Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Vernon Parish Police Jury for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion 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 Vernon Parish 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 Vernon Parish Police Jury.
2. Organizations for which the Vernon Parish Police Jury does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the Vernon Parish Police Jury.
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.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

Because the Vernon Parish Police Jury provides office facilities for the Clerk of Court, the Clerk of Court was determined to be fiscally dependent on the Vernon Parish Police Jury and accordingly is considered to be a component unit of the Vernon Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying basic financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Clerk of Court and do not present information on the Vernon Parish Police Jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

C. FUND ACCOUNTING-

The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid management by segregating transactions related to certain Clerk of Court functions and activities. A fund is defined as a separate fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds of the Clerk of Court are classified into two categories: governmental and fiduciary. An emphasis is placed on major funds, and the General Fund is considered to be a major fund.

Governmental Funds

General Fund - The General Fund (Salary Fund), as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:781, is the principal fund of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court and accounts for the operations of the Clerk of Court's office. The various fees and charges due to the Clerk of Court's office are accounted for in this fund.

Fiduciary Funds

Agency Funds - The agency funds, the Advance Deposit Fund, the Registry of Court Fund, the Civil Jury Fund and the Non-Support account for assets held by the Clerk of Court as an agent for litigants held pending court action or for legally required payments to others. These funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations. Consequently, the agency funds have no measurement focus, but use the modified accrual basis of accounting.

D. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/BASIS OF ACCOUNTING-

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. These statements include all of the financial activities of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court, except for the fiduciary funds which are reported separately.

The government-wide financial statements were prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed). Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 33, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

The governmental fund uses the modified accrual basis of accounting. 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 pay liabilities of the current period. The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court considers all revenues available if collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The governmental fund uses the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues-

Fees for certified copies, recording legal documents, marriage licenses, and commissions for services are recorded in the year they are earned. Interest income on time deposits are recorded when the time deposits have matured and the income is available. All other revenues are recorded when received.

Expenditures-

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

E. BUDGETARY ACCOUNTING-

Formal budgetary accounting is employed as a management control. The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court prepares and adopts a budget each year for its general fund in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes. The operating budget is prepared based on prior year's revenues and expenditures and the estimated increase therein for the current year, using the modified accrual basis of accounting. The Clerk of Court amends its budget when projected revenues are expected to be less than budgeted revenues by five percent or more and/or projected expenditures are expected to be more than budgeted amounts by five percent or more. All budget appropriations lapse at year end.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

F. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS-

Cash - includes not only currency on hand but also demand deposits with banks or other financial institutions and other kinds of accounts that have the general characteristics of demand deposits in that the Clerk of Court may deposit additional funds at any time and also effectively may withdraw funds at any time without prior notice or penalty.

Cash equivalents - includes all short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are so near their maturity that they present insignificant risk of changes in value because of interest rates. The Clerk of Court's policy is to include time deposits and certificates of deposit in cash equivalents.

G. INVESTMENTS-

Investments are limited by R. S. 33:2955 and the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court's investment policy. If the original maturities of investments exceed 90 days, they are classified as investments; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents.

H. RECEIVABLES-

All receivables are reported at their gross value. The Clerk of Court expects to collect all balances due and no provision for bad debts is recorded.

I. CAPITAL ASSETS-

Capital assets are carried at historical costs. Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets used by the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court is charged as an expense against operations in the Statement of Activities. Capital assets net of accumulated depreciation are reported on the Statement of Net Position. Depreciation is computed using the straight line method over the estimated useful life of the assets, generally 10 to 40 years for building improvements and 5 to 10 years for moveable property. Expenditures for maintenance, repairs and minor renewals are charged to expenditures as incurred. Major expenditures for renewals and betterments are capitalized. The Clerk of Court maintains a threshold of \$2,500 or more for capitalization of assets.

J. COMPENSATED ABSENCES-

Full-time employees of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court earn from one to five weeks of vacation leave each year, depending on length of service and twelve days of sick leave. Only five days of unused vacation leave is allowed to be carried over to the next year. Sick leave is accumulative up to forty-five days. At June 30, 2019, a total of \$53,678 in accrued leave remained unpaid. Upon termination, employees are paid for accumulated sick leave and any unused vacation.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

K. PENSIONS-

For purposes of measuring the Net Pension Liability, Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (System) and additions to/deductions from the System's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the System. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms.

L. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES-

The Statement of Net Position reports a separate section for deferred outflows and (or) deferred inflows of financial resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to future periods and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until the applicable period. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to future periods and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources until that time.

M. ESTIMATES-

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenditures, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

N. EQUITY CLASSIFICATIONS-

In the government-wide statements, equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets - Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position - Consists of net resources with constraints placed on their use either by (1) external groups such as credits, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted net position - All other resources that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

When an expense is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available, the Clerk of Court applies unrestricted net resources first, unless a determination is made to use restricted net resources. The policy concerning which to apply first varies with the intended use and legal requirements. This decision is typically made by the Clerk of Court at the incurrence of the expense.

In the fund statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance and displayed in five components. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which resources can be used:

- a. Nonspendable fund balance - amounts that are not in a spendable form (such as prepaid expenses) or are required to be maintained intact;
- b. Restricted fund balance - amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation;
- c. Committed fund balance - amounts constrained to specific purposes by a government itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority; to be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the government takes the same highest level action to remove or change the constraint;
- d. Assigned fund balance - amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority;
- e. Unassigned fund balance - amounts that are available for any purpose; positive amounts are reported only in the general fund.

The General Fund, the Clerk of Court's only governmental fund, has a nonspendable fund balance of \$20,888 which represents prepaid expenses. The remaining fund balance of \$966,568 is classified as unassigned. If applicable, the Clerk of Court would typically use restricted fund balances first, followed by committed resources and assigned resources as appropriate opportunities arise, but reserves the right to selectively spend unassigned resources first and to defer the use of these other classified funds.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments and Related Credit Risk:

For reporting purposes, deposits with financial institutions include savings, demand deposits, time deposits, and certificates of deposit. The Clerk of Court may invest in time certificates of deposit of state banks organized under the laws of Louisiana, national banks having their principal office in the state of Louisiana, in savings accounts or shares of savings and loan associations and savings banks and in share accounts and share certificate accounts of federally or state chartered credit unions.

At June 30, 2019, the Clerk of Court had cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$2,554,218 as follows:

Petty Cash	\$ 250
Time Deposits	1,225,339
Demand Deposits	<u>1,328,629</u>
Total	<u>\$2,554,218</u>

The cash and cash equivalents of the Clerk of Court are subject to the following risk:

*Custodial Credit Risk:* Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Clerk of Court will not be able to recover its deposits. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance, national credit union administration 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 or exceed the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These 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. 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 of Court that the fiscal agent bank has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the Clerk of Court's name.

At June 30, 2019, the Clerk of Court has \$2,688,794 in deposits (collected bank balances). These deposits are secured from credit risk as follows:

Collected Bank Balances	\$ 2,688,794
FDIC Insurance	(1,201,000)
NCUA Insurance	(250,000)
Pledged Securities	<u>(1,236,477)</u>
Balance Subject to Credit Risk	<u>\$ 1,317</u>

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

3. Investments:

*Interest Rate Risk.* This is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity is its fair value to changes in market interest rates. The Clerk of Court does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. However, as a means of offsetting exposure to interest rate risk, the Clerk of Court diversifies its investments by security type and institution.

Investments held at June 30, 2019 include \$605,816 in the Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP), a local government investment pool. In accordance with GASB Codification Section 150.126, the investment in LAMP at June 30, 2019, is not categorized in the three risk categories provided by GASB Codification Section 150.125 because the investment is in the pool of funds and therefore not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form.

LAMP is administered by LAMP, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Only local government entities having contracted to participate in LAMP have an investment interest in its pool of assets. The primary objective of LAMP is to provide a safe environment for the placement of public funds in short-term, high quality investments. The LAMP portfolio includes only securities and other obligations in which local governments in Louisiana are authorized to invest in accordance with LSA - R.S. 33:2955. Accordingly, LAMP investments are restricted to securities issued, guaranteed, or backed by the U.S. Treasury, the U.S. Government, or one of its agencies, enterprises, or instrumentalities, as well as repurchase agreements collateralized by those securities.

Effective August 1, 2001, LAMP's investment guidelines were amended to permit the investment in government-only money market funds. In its 2001 Regular Session, the Louisiana Legislature (Senate Bill No. 512, Act 701, enacted LSA-R.S. 33:2955 (A) (1) (h) which allows all municipalities, parishes, school boards, and any other political subdivisions of the State to invest in "Investment grade (A-1/P-1) commercial paper of domestic United States corporations." Effective October 1, 2001, LAMP's Investment Guidelines were amended to allow the limited investment in A-1 or A-1+ commercial paper.

The dollar weighted average portfolio maturity of LAMP assets is restricted to not more than 90 days, and consists of no securities with a maturity in excess of 397 days. LAMP is designed to be highly liquid to give its participants immediate access to their account balances. The investments in LAMP are stated at fair value based on quoted market rates. The fair value is determined on a weekly basis by LAMP and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the value of pool shares.

LAMP, Inc. is subject to the regulatory oversight of the state treasurer and the board of directors. LAMP is not registered with the SEC as an investment company.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

4. Revenue Receivable:

The following is a summary of receivables at June 30, 2019:

<u>Class of Receivable</u>	<u>Total</u>
Charges for Services	\$46,840

5. Accounts Payable and Accruals:

The following is a summary of accounts payable at June 30, 2019:

<u>Class of Payable</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vendor	\$38,709

6. Pension Plan:

*Plan Description*

The Clerk of Court contributes to The Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (Fund) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 11:1501 to provide regular, disability, and survivor benefits for clerks of court, their deputies and other employees, and the beneficiaries of such clerks of court, their deputies, and other employees. Substantially all employees of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court are members of the Fund. The Fund issues an annual publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the Fund, which can be obtained at [www.la.la.org](http://www.la.la.org).

The following is a description of the plan and its benefits and is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the appropriate statutes for more complete information.

**Retirement Benefits**

A member or former member shall be eligible for regular retirement benefits upon attaining twelve or more years of credited service, attaining the age of fifty-five years or more, and terminating employment. Regular retirement benefits, payable monthly for life, equal 3 1/3% of the member's average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service, not to exceed one hundred percent of the monthly average final compensation. Monthly average final compensation is based on the highest compensated thirty-six consecutive months, with a limit of increase of 10% in each of the last three years of measurement. For those members hired on or after July 1, 2006, compensation is based on the highest compensated sixty consecutive months with a limit of 10% increase in each of the last six years of measurement. Act 273 of the 2010 regular session applied the sixty consecutive months to all members. This Act has a transition period for those members who retired on or after January 1, 2011 and before December 31, 2012. Additionally, Act 273 of the 2010 regular session increased a member's retirement to age 60 with an accrual rate of 3% for all members hired on or after January 1, 2011.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

A member leaving covered employment before attaining early retirement age but after completing twelve years' credited service becomes eligible for a deferred allowance provided the member lives to the minimum service retirement age and does not withdraw his or her accumulated contributions.

### **Disability Benefits**

Effective through June 30, 2008, a member who has been officially certified as totally and permanently disabled by the State Medical Disability Board shall be paid disability retirement benefits determined and computed as follows:

- 1) A member who is totally and permanently disabled solely as the result of injuries sustained in the performance of his official duties shall be paid monthly benefits equal to the greater of one-half of his monthly average final compensation or, at the option of the disability retiree, 2 1/2% of his monthly average final compensation multiplied by the number of his years of credited service; however, such monthly benefit shall not exceed twenty-five dollars for each year of his credited service or two-thirds of his monthly average final compensation, whichever is less.
- 2) A member who has ten or more years of credited service and who is totally and permanently disabled due to any cause not the result of injuries sustained in the performance of his official duties shall be paid monthly benefits equal to 3% of his monthly average final compensation multiplied by the number of his years of credited service; however, such monthly benefit shall not exceed thirty-five dollars for each year of his credited service or eighty percent of his monthly average final compensation, whichever is less.

The following is effective for any disability retiree whose application for disability retirement is approved on or after July 1, 2008. The provisions related to the calculation of benefits will apply to any disability retiree whose application for disability retirement was approved before July 1, 2008, for benefits due and payable on or after January 1, 2008.

A member is eligible to receive disability retirement benefits from the Fund if he or she is certified to be totally and permanently disabled pursuant to R.S. 11:218 and one of the following applies:

- 1) The member's disability was caused solely as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of their official duties.
- 2) The member has at least ten years of service credit.

A member who has been certified as totally and permanently disabled will be paid monthly disability retirement benefits equal to the greater of:

- 1) Forty percent of their monthly average final compensation.
- 2) Seventy-five percent of their monthly regular retirement benefit computed pursuant to R.S. 11:1521(c).

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

A member leaving covered employment before attaining early retirement age but after completing twelve years' credited service becomes eligible for a deferred allowance provided the member lives to the minimum service retirement age and does not withdraw his or her accumulated contributions.

### **Survivor Benefits**

If a member who has less than five years of credited service dies, his accumulated contributions are paid to his designated beneficiary. If the member has five or more years of credited service, automatic Option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse. These benefits are based on the retirement benefits accrued at the member's date of death with option factors used as if the member had continued in service to earliest normal retirement age. Benefit payments are to commence on the date a member would have first become eligible for normal retirement assuming continued service until that time. In lieu of a deferred survivor benefit, the surviving spouse may elect benefits payable immediately with benefits reduced 1/4 of 1% for each month by which payments commence in advance of member's earliest normal retirement age. If a member has no surviving spouse, the surviving minor children under 18 or disabled children shall be paid 1/2 of the member's accrued retirement benefit in equal shares. Upon the death of any former member with 12 or more years of service, automatic Option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse with payments to commence on the member's retirement eligibility date. In lieu of periodic payments, the surviving spouse or children may receive a refund of the member's accumulated contributions.

### **Deferred Retirement Option Plan**

In lieu of terminating employment and accepting a service retirement allowance, any member of the Fund who is eligible for a service retirement allowance may elect to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for up to thirty-six months and defer the receipt of benefits. Upon commencement of participation in the plan, active membership in the Fund terminates and the participant's contributions cease; however, employer contributions continue. Compensation and creditable service remain as they existed on the effective date of commencement of participation in the plan. The monthly retirement benefits that would have been payable, had the member elected to cease employment and receive a service retirement allowance, are paid into the Deferred Retirement Option Plan account.

Upon termination of employment at the end of the specified period of participation, a participant in the program may receive, at his option, a lump sum payment from the Fund. If employment is not terminated at the end of the participation period, payments into the account cease and the member resumes active contributing membership in the Fund. Interest is paid on DROP account balances for members who complete their DROP participation but do not terminate employment. Interest accruals cease upon termination of employment. Upon termination, the member receives a lump sum payment from the DROP fund equal to the payments made to that fund on his behalf or a true annuity based on his account (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees). The monthly benefit payments that were being paid into the DROP fund are paid to the retiree and an additional benefit based on his additional service rendered since termination of DROP participation is calculated using the normal method of benefit computation.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

The average compensation used to calculate the additional benefit is that used to calculate the original benefit unless his period of additional service is at least thirty-six months. In no event can the entire monthly benefit amount paid to the retiree exceed 100% of the average compensation used to compute the additional benefit. If a participant dies during the period of participation in the program, a lump sum payment equal to his account balance is paid to his named beneficiary or, if none, to his estate.

### **Cost-of-Living Adjustments**

The Board of Trustees is authorized to provide a cost-of-living increase to members who have been retired for at least one full calendar year. The increase cannot exceed the lesser of 2.5% of the retiree's benefit or an increase of forty dollars per month. The Louisiana statutes allow the Board to grant an additional cost-of-living increase to all retirees and beneficiaries over age 65 equal to 2% of the benefit paid on October 1, 1977, or the member's retirement date if later.

In order to grant any cost-of-living increase, the Fund must meet criteria as detailed in the Louisiana statutes related to funding status.

In lieu of granting a cost-of-living increase as described above, Louisiana statutes allow the board to grant a cost-of-living increase where the benefits shall be calculated using the number of years of service at retirement or at death plus the number of years since retirement or death multiplied by the cost-of-living amount which cannot exceed \$1.

### *Contributions*

According to state statute, contribution requirements for all employers are actuarially determined each year. For the year ending June 30, 2018, the actual employer contribution rate was 19%.

In accordance with state statute, the Fund also receives ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing funds. These additional sources of income are used as employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities. Non-employer contributions are recognized as revenue during the year and excluded from pension expense. Non-employer contribution revenue for the year ended June 30, 2019, was \$75,259.

The Clerk of Court's contractually required composite contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2019 was 19% of annual payroll, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with employee contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability. Contributions to the pension plan from the Clerk were \$125,029 for the year ended June 30, 2019. The Clerk has elected under state statute to pay both the employer and the employee contributions to the retirement system.

Due to this election, the Clerk contributed an additional \$53,441 on behalf of the employees for the year.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

*Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions*

For the years ending June 30, 2019, and 2018 the Clerk reported a liability of \$1,141,194 and \$987,106, respectively, for its proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability. The Net Pension Liability was measured as of June 30, 2018 and the total pension liability used to calculate the Net Pension Liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Clerk of Court's proportion of the Net Pension Liability was based on a projection of the Clerk of Court's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. For the years ending June 30, 2018, and 2017 the Clerk of Court's proportion was .686102% and .652445%, respectively, which was an increase of .03366% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2017.

For the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, the Clerk recognized pension expense including employer's amortization of change in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions of \$65,611 and \$11,327.

At June 30, 2019, the Clerk reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 30,286	\$11,274
Changes in assumption	118,566	0
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	21,783	0
Changes in employer's proportion of beginning net pension liability	41,123	81,322
Differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of employer contributions	51	63
Subsequent Measurement Contributions	125,029	0
Total	\$336,838	\$92,659

The deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Vernon Parish Clerk of Court contributions subsequent to the measurement date in the amount of \$125,029, will be recognized as a reduction of the Net Pension Liabilities in the year of June 30, 2020. Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:	
2020	\$ 69,995
2021	33,694
2022	(22,832)
2023	38,293
Total	\$119,150

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

*Actuarial Assumptions*

The net pension liability was measured as the portion of the present value of projected benefit payments to be provided through the pension plan to current active and inactive employees that is attributed to those employees' past periods of service, less the amount of the pension plan's fiduciary net position.

A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability as of June 30, 2018, are as follows:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2018
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Investment Rate of Return	6.75%, net of investment expense
Projected Salary Increases	5.00%
Inflation Rate	2.5%
Mortality Rates	RP-2000 Employee Table (set back 4 years for males and 3 years for females) RP-2000 Disabled Lives Mortality Table (set back 5 years for males and 3 years for females) RP-2000 Healthy Annuitant Table (set forward 1 year for males)
Expected Remaining Service Lives	2018 - 5 years 2017 - 5 years 2016 - 5 years 2015 - 5 years
Cost-of-Living Adjustments	The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the Fund and includes previously granted cost-of-living increases. The present values do not include provisions for potential future increases not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees as they were deemed not to be substantively automatic.

The actuarial assumptions used are based on the assumptions used in the 2018 actuarial funding valuation which (with the exception of mortality) were based on results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2014, unless otherwise specified.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

The mortality rate assumption used was verified by combining data from this plan with three other statewide plans which have similar workforce composition in order to produce a credible experience. The aggregated data was collected over the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014.

The data was then assigned credibility weighting and combined with a standard table to produce current levels of mortality. This mortality was then projected forward to a period equivalent to the estimated duration of the Fund's liabilities. Annuity values calculated based on this mortality were compared to those produced by using a setback of standard tables. The result of the procedure indicated that these tables would produce liability values approximating the appropriate generational mortality tables used.

The long-term expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimates ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The long term expected rate of return was 7.20%, for the year ended June 30, 2018.

The best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2018, is summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Asset Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Portfolio Real Rate of Return</u>
Fixed Income:		
Core fixed income	5.00%	1.75%
Core plus fixed income	15.00%	2.00%
Domestic Equity:		
Large cap domestic equity	21.00%	4.50%
Non-large cap domestic equity	7.00%	4.75%
International Equity:		
Large cap international equity	14.00%	4.75%
Small cap international equity	6.50%	4.50%
Emerging markets	6.50%	6.25%
Real Estate	10.00%	4.50%
Master Limited Partnerships	5.00%	6.00%
Hedge Funds	<u>10.00%</u>	3.50%
	<u>100.00%</u>	

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.75%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from participating employers will be made at the actuarially determined rates approved by PRSAC taking into consideration the recommendation of the Fund's actuary. Based on those assumptions, the Fund's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

*Sensitivity of the Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate*

The following presents the Clerk of Court's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability using the discount rate of 6.75%, as well as what the Clerk of Court's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower (5.75%) or one percentage-point higher (7.75%) than the current rate:

	1.0% Decrease (5.75%)	Current Discount Rate (6.75%)	1.0% Increase (7.75%)
Employer's proportionate share of net pension liability	\$1,744,632	\$1,141,194	\$640,997

*Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position*

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Louisiana Clerks' of Courts Retirement and Relief Fund Annual Financial Report at [www.la.la.gov](http://www.la.la.gov).

7. Other Post-Employment Benefits:

*Plan Description.* The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court's defined benefit postemployment health care plan provides OPEB to eligible retired employees and their beneficiaries. The plan provides OPEB for permanent full-time employees of the Clerk. The Clerk's OPEB plan is a single employer defined benefit OPEB plan administered by the Clerk. Benefits are provided through the Louisiana Clerks of Court Insurance Trust ("LCCIT"), a multiple-employer healthcare plan administered by the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association. Louisiana Revised Statute §13:783 grants the authority to establish and amend the benefit terms and financing requirements. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of Statement 75. The premium rates are established and may be amended by the LCCIT board of trustees, with the Clerk determining the contribution requirements of the retirees.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

*Benefits provided.* The Clerk provides medical, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits for retirees and their dependents. The benefit terms provide for payment of 100% of retiree and 100% of dependent pre-Medicare health, Medicare Supplement, and dental insurance premiums. Vision is voluntary and paid 100% by the retiree. The plan also provides for payment of 100% of retiree life insurance premiums.

Employees covered by benefits terms. At January 1, 2018, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees currently receiving benefits payments	12
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefit payments	0
Active Employees	<u>15</u>
Total	<u>27</u>

### **Total OPEB Liability**

The Clerk's total OPEB liability of \$2,257,047 was measured as of June 30, 2019 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2018.

*Actuarial Assumptions and other inputs* – The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2019 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	2.40%
Salary increases	3.0%, including inflation
Discount rate	3.13%
Healthcare cost trend rates	
Medical:	Initially 7.5%, decreasing 0.25% per year to an ultimate rate of 5.0%
Medicare Supplement:	Initially 5.5%, decreasing 0.25% per year to an ultimate rate of 3.0%. Include 2% per year for aging.
Dental:	Initially 3.5%, decreasing 0.25% per year to an ultimate rate of 3.0%
Vision:	3.0% per year
Retirees' Share of Benefit-Related Costs:	100% for retirees with less than 20 years of service. 0% for retirees with at least 20 years of service.

The discount rate was based on the 6/30/2018 Fidelity General Obligation AA 20-Year Yield.

Mortality rates for active employees were based on the RPH-2014 Employee Mortality Table for males or females, as appropriate, with generational adjustments for mortality improvement based on Scale MP-2017.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

Mortality rates for retirees and surviving spouses were based on the RPH-2014 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table for males or females, as appropriate, with generational adjustments for mortality improvement based on Scale MP-2017.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2019 valuation were based on those used in the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund valuation and actuarial experience.

**Changes in the Total OPEB Liability**

Balance at June 30, 2018	\$2,240,226
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	26,758
Interest	69,206
Differences between expected and actual experience	(154,389)
Changes in Assumptions/Inputs	187,109
Benefit payments and net transfers	(111,863)
Net changes	16,821
Balance at June 30, 2019	\$2,257,047

*Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate.* The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Clerk, as well as what the Clerk's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.31 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.31 percent) than the current discount rate:

	1.0% Decrease (2.31%)	Discount Rate (3.31%)	1.0% Increase (4.31%)
Total OPEB Liability	\$2,569,211	\$2,257,047	\$1,827,109

*Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates.* The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Clerk, as well as what the Clerk's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	1.0% Decrease	Discount Rate	1.0% Increase
Total OPEB Liability	\$2,058,101	\$2,257,047	\$2,492,202

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

**OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

For the year ended June 30, 2019, the Clerk recognized an OPEB expense of \$100,229. At June 30, 2019, the Clerk reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 0	\$134,599
Changes of assumptions or other inputs	155,923	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155,923</b>	<b>\$134,599</b>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Years ending June 30:	
2020	\$ 4,265
2021	4,265
2022	4,265
2023	4,265
2024	4,264
Thereafter	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>\$21,324</u>

8. Risk Management:

The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Clerk of Court maintains commercial insurance coverage covering each of those risks of loss. Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured losses to the Clerk of Court.

9. Deferred Compensation Plan:

All of the employees of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court are eligible to participate in the State of Louisiana deferred compensation plan. Employees may contribute up to 100% of their salary (not to exceed \$19,000 a year) to the plan on a pre-tax basis. The contributions are withheld from the employees' paycheck and the Clerk matches 100% of the employee contribution not to exceed 6% of the salary for each employee. The contributions are fully vested immediately and are remitted to a third-party administrator each payday, where they are deposited to an account in the employee's name. The Vernon Parish Clerk of Court does not assume any liability for the funds and does not have any control over the funds once they are remitted to the third-party administrator. During the year ended June 30, 2019, the Clerk's matching funds totaled \$17,302.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2019

10. Expenditures of the Clerk of Court Paid by the Parish Police Jury:

Certain expenses of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court's office are paid by the Vernon Parish Police Jury. In addition to furnishing the building where the Clerk of Court's office is located, the Police Jury pays all utility bills, some insurance, and furnishes some of the equipment in the Clerk of Court's office.

11. Subsequent Events:

Management has evaluated events through November 11, 2019, the date which the financial statements were available for issue. There were no items to be reported as subsequent events.

OTHER REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
General Fund  
Budgetary Comparison Schedule  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

	Budget		Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final		
REVENUES:				
Licenses & Permits-				
Marriage Licenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 7,918	\$ 7,918
Charges for Services-				
Court Costs, Fees & Charges	916,937	971,961	1,094,984	123,023
Recording Fees	745,836	741,302	569,579	(171,723)
Intergovernmental-				
Supplemental Compensation Fund	0	0	24,500	24,500
Miscellaneous-				
Other	0	0	118	118
Interest	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>40,564</u>	<u>40,564</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$1,662,773</u>	<u>\$1,713,263</u>	<u>\$1,737,663</u>	<u>\$ 24,400</u>
EXPENDITURES:				
Current-				
Judicial-				
Personnel Services	\$1,161,259	\$1,173,951	\$1,176,311	\$ (2,360)
Operating Services	146,136	137,210	139,289	(2,079)
Operating Supplies	89,495	53,893	51,163	2,730
Other Charges	<u>10,970</u>	<u>8,374</u>	<u>39,863</u>	<u>(31,489)</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$1,407,860</u>	<u>\$1,373,428</u>	<u>\$1,406,626</u>	<u>\$ (33,198)</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 254,913	\$ 339,835	\$ 331,037	\$ (8,798)
Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	<u>656,419</u>	<u>656,419</u>	<u>656,419</u>	<u>0</u>
Fund Balance-End of Year	<u>\$ 911,332</u>	<u>\$ 996,254</u>	<u>\$ 987,456</u>	<u>\$ (8,798)</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

<u>Year</u>	<u>Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)</u>	<u>Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)</u>	<u>Employer's Covered Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll</u>	<u>Plan Fiduciary Net Pension as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability</u>
2015	.74069%	\$ 999,091	\$678,413	147.27%	79.37%
2016	.74988%	1,124,842	671,496	167.51%	78.13%
2017	.73569%	1,361,004	588,593	231.23%	74.17%
2018	.65244%	987,106	637,028	154.95%	79.69%
2019	.68610%	1,141,194	658,049	173.42%	79.07%

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Schedule of Employer Contributions  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

<u>Year</u>	<u>Contractually Required Contributions</u>	<u>Contributions in Relation to Contractually Required Contributions</u>	<u>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</u>	<u>Employer's Covered Payroll</u>	<u>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll</u>
2015	\$128,899	\$128,899	\$0	\$678,413	19.00%
2016	127,584	127,584	0	671,496	19.00%
2017	111,833	111,833	0	588,593	19.00%
2018	121,035	121,035	0	637,028	19.00%
2019	125,029	125,029	0	658,049	19.00%

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Changes of Assumptions:

- There were no changes of benefit assumptions for the year ended June 30, 2019.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Year	2018	2019
Service Cost	\$ 25,916	\$ 26,758
Interest	80,490	69,206
Changes of Benefits Terms	-	-
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experiences	(8,319)	(154,389)
Changes of Assumptions	-	187,109
Benefit Payments	(110,848)	(111,863)
Net Change In Total OPEB Liability	(12,761)	16,821
Beginning OPEB Liability	2,252,987	2,240,226
Ending OPEB Liability	<u>\$ 2,240,226</u>	<u>\$ 2,257,047</u>
Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 648,388	\$ 669,379
Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	345.51%	337.19%

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Changes of Assumptions:

- There were no changes of benefit assumptions for the year ended June 30, 2019.

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to  
Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Agency Head Name: Jeff Skidmore, Clerk of Court

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$147,271
Benefits-Insurance	18,378
Benefits-Retirement	44,145
Deferred Compensation	7,200
Benefits-Other	2,379
Expense allowance	14,727
Registration Fees	825
Conference Travel	4,307
Other	2,100

See independent auditor's report.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position  
for the Year Ended June 30, 2019

	<u>Advance Deposit Fund</u>	<u>Registry of Court Fund</u>	<u>Civil Jury Fund</u>	<u>Non- Support Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
ADDITIONS:					
Suits and Successions	\$1,080,556	\$ 69,254	\$ 30,000	\$27,975	\$1,207,785
Interest Income	<u>0</u>	<u>363</u>	<u>444</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>809</u>
Total Additions	<u>\$1,080,556</u>	<u>\$ 69,617</u>	<u>\$ 30,444</u>	<u>\$27,977</u>	<u>\$1,208,594</u>
DEDUCTIONS:					
Clerk's Costs (paid to general fund)	\$ 581,184	\$ 0	\$ 10,566	\$14,794	\$ 606,544
Settlements to Litigants	249,750	48,972	0	0	298,722
Sheriff's Fees	111,516	0	0	1,629	113,145
Court Reporters	3,346	0	0	0	3,346
Attorneys, Curators, Notary	1,243	0	0	0	1,243
Judges' Supplemental Fund	35,030	0	0	0	35,030
Judicial Supplemental Fund	21,120	0	0	0	21,120
Other Deductions	<u>9,115</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>88,461</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>97,576</u>
Total Deductions	<u>\$1,012,304</u>	<u>\$ 48,972</u>	<u>\$ 99,027</u>	<u>\$16,423</u>	<u>\$1,176,726</u>
Change in Liabilities	\$ 68,252	\$ 20,645	\$ (68,583)	\$11,554	\$ 31,868
Liabilities-Beginning	<u>1,733,057</u>	<u>159,869</u>	<u>283,374</u>	<u>1,147</u>	<u>2,177,447</u>
Liabilities-Ending	<u>\$1,801,309</u>	<u>\$180,514</u>	<u>\$214,791</u>	<u>\$12,701</u>	<u>\$2,209,315</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

## OTHER REPORTS

**T | C | B | T**  
**THOMAS, CUNNINGHAM, BROADWAY & TODTENBIER**  
*Certified Public Accountants*

Eddie G. Johnson, CPA – A Professional Corporation (1927-1996)

Mark D. Thomas, CPA – A Professional Corporation  
Roger M. Cunningham, CPA – A Professional Corporation  
Jessica H. Broadway, CPA – A Professional Corporation  
Ryan E. Todtenbier, CPA – A Professional Corporation

321 Bienville Street  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457  
(318) 352-3652  
Fax (318) 352-4447  
[www.tcbtcpa.com](http://www.tcbtcpa.com)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER  
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS  
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Honorable Jeff Skidmore  
Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
P. O. Box 40  
Leesville, Louisiana 71446

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, the financial statements of the governmental activities, major fund and fiduciary funds as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court's (Clerk) basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated November 11, 2019.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk of Court's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk of Court's internal control.

*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 financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2019-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Clerk of Court's financial statements are free from 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 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 one instance of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and are described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as items 2019-002.

### **Vernon Parish Clerk of Court Response to Finding**

The Clerk's responses to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings. The Clerk's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely 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 effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 25:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

*Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's*

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's  
Natchitoches, Louisiana

November 11, 2019

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Schedule of Audit Results  
Year Ended June 30, 2019

I. Summary of Audit Results

1. The auditor's report expresses an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court.
2. The audit disclosed one significant deficiency in internal control, and this deficiency was not determined to be a material weakness.
3. The audit disclosed one instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

II. FINDINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Internal Control-

2019-001 *Segregation of Duties*

*Criteria* - The Clerk's office should have employees available to execute the ongoing duties related to financial matters.

*Condition* - Our evaluation of the internal control structure revealed an absence of appropriate segregation of duties and the lack of personnel available to prepare financial statements including the related note disclosures.

*Effect* - Intentional or unintentional errors could be made and not detected within the accounting system.

*Cause* - Due to a lack of funds, the Clerk's office does not have a sufficient number of employees to adequately separate accounting duties or to prepare the Clerk's annual financial statements with related note disclosures.

*Recommendation* - Since the costs associated with establishing an appropriate system of internal control should not outweigh the benefits derived from it, we do not have a recommendation to make.

*Management's Response* - It is not economically feasible to add a sufficient number of employees to adequately segregate accounting duties. In addition, we have evaluated the cost/benefit of establishing a system to prepare our annual financial statements and have determined that it is in the best interest of the Clerk of Court to have our independent auditors prepare our annual financial statements. We understand that we should review the financial statements and notes and accept responsibility for their contents and presentation.

Compliance-

2019-002 *Cash Balance Unsecured*

*Criteria* - Louisiana state law requires that all funds held by banks for an entity must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the NCUA insurance must at all times equal or exceed the amount on deposit with the bank.

Vernon Parish Clerk of Court  
Schedule of Audit Results (continued)  
Year Ended June 30, 2019

*Condition* - The cash balance in the federal credit union was not fully secured by NCUA insurance or pledged securities.

*Effect* - If the federal credit union were to fail, then the Clerk's funds in excess of NCUA insurance and pledged securities would be at risk for loss.

*Cause* - The Clerk and the federal credit union have been working together to remove funds above NCUA coverage, however funds were not removed within a timely manner.

*Recommendation* - The Clerk needs to have in place procedures to ensure that balances are reviewed on a monthly basis and that excess funds are removed within the time limited allowed by legislation.

*Management's Response* - Management is presently working with the credit union to have the unsecured amounts withdrawn in a timely manner and deposited with another institution so that those funds will be fully secured.

### III. Prior Year Finding

#### 2018-001 *Segregation of Duties*

*Condition* - Our evaluation of the internal control structure revealed an absence of appropriate segregation of duties and the lack of personnel available to prepare financial statements including the related note disclosures.

*Status* - As of June 30, 2019, this condition still exists. See current year finding 2019-001.

#### 2018-002 *Cash Balance Unsecured*

*Condition* - The cash balance in the federal credit union was not fully secured by NCUA insurance or pledged securities.

*Status* - As of June 30, 2019, this condition still exists. See current year finding 2019-002.

#### 2018-003 *Compliance with State Investment Requirements*

*Condition* - For the year ended June 30, 2019, the Clerk had Certificates of Deposit with banks that did not meet the requirements as stated above.

*Status* - As of June 30, 2019, this condition has cleared.

**T | C | B | T**  
**THOMAS, CUNNINGHAM, BROADWAY & TODTENBIER**  
*Certified Public Accountants*

Eddie G. Johnson, CPA – A Professional Corporation (1927-1996)

Mark D. Thomas, CPA – A Professional Corporation  
Roger M. Cunningham, CPA – A Professional Corporation  
Jessica H. Broadway, CPA – A Professional Corporation  
Ryan E. Todtenbier, CPA – A Professional Corporation

321 Bienville Street  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457  
(318) 352-3652  
Fax (318) 352-4447  
[www.tcbtcpa.com](http://www.tcbtcpa.com)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING  
STATEWIDE AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Honorable Jeff Skidmore  
Vernon Parish Clerk of Court

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Honorable Steve D. Andrews of the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA) on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the LLA's Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Vernon Parish Clerk of Court is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified users of this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures enumerated below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

Our procedures and associated findings are enumerated below.

***Written Policies and Procedures***

---

1. We obtained and inspected the entity's written policies and procedures and observed whether those written policies and procedures address each of the following categories and subcategories (or noted that the entity does not have any written policies and procedures), as applicable:
  - ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
  - ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the public bid law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
  - ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
  - ***Receipts***, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g. periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation.)

- **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked.
  - **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
  - **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
  - **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
  - **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) requirement that all employees, including elected officials, annually attest through signature verification that they have read the entity's ethics policy.
  - **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
  - **Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- a) Procedure Results – We noted no exceptions.

***Board (or Finance Committee, if applicable)***

---

2. We obtained and inspected the board/committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent documents in effect during the fiscal period, and:
- Observed that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
  - Observed that the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the General Fund and major special revenue funds, as well as monthly financial statements (or budget-to-actual comparisons, if budgeted) for major proprietary funds. *Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the non-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*
  - For governmental entities, obtained the prior year audit report and observed the unrestricted fund balance in the General Fund. If the General Fund had a negative ending unrestricted fund balance in the prior year audit report, observed that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unrestricted fund balance in the General Fund.
- a) Procedure Results – The Clerk of Court is an elected official with no governing board; therefore, there are no minutes to review.

### ***Bank Reconciliations***

---

3. We obtained a listing of client bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. We identified the entity's main operating account. We selected the entity's main operating account and randomly selected four additional accounts (or all if less than five). We randomly selected one month from the fiscal period, and obtained and inspected the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for the selected accounts, and observed that:
  - Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within two months of the related statement closing date (e.g. initialed and dated, electronically logged);
  - Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management/board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation (e.g. initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
  - Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.
  - a) Procedure Results – Not required due to no exceptions in the area in the prior year.

### ***Collections***

---

4. We obtained a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/check/money order (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected the required amount of deposit sites (up to five).
5. We obtained a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected one collection location for each deposit site selected. We obtained and inspected written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties at each collection location, and observed that job duties were properly segregated at each collection location such that:
  - Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.
  - Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.
  - Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
  - The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee verifies the reconciliation.
6. We inquired of management that all employees who have access to cash are covered by a bond or insurance policy for theft.

7. We randomly selected two deposit dates for each of the bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under “Bank Reconciliations” above. We obtained supporting documentation for each of the deposits selected and:
  1. We observed that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
  2. We traced sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
  3. We traced the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
  4. We observed that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100).
  5. We traced the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.
    - a) Procedure Results – Not required due to no exceptions in the area in the prior year.

***Disbursements – General (excluding credit card/debit card/fuel card/P-Card purchases or payments)***

---

8. We obtained a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected the required amount of disbursement locations (up to five).
9. For each location selected under #8 above, we obtained written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and we observed that job duties are properly segregated such that:
  - At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
  - At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
  - The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.
  - Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.
10. For each location selected under #8 above, we obtained the entity’s non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtained management’s representation that the population is complete. We randomly selected 5 disbursements for each location, and obtained supporting documentation for each transaction and:
  - We observed that the disbursement matched the related original invoice/billing statement.
  - We observed that the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.
  - a) Procedure Results – Not required due to no exceptions in the area in the prior year.

***Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards***

---

11. We obtained from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and P-cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. We obtained management's representation that the listing is complete.
12. Using the listing prepared by management, we randomly selected the required amount of cards (up to five) that were used during the fiscal period. We randomly selected one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), and obtained supporting documentation, and:
  1. We observed that there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the authorized card holder.
  2. We observed that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
13. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #12 above, excluding fuel cards, we randomly selected the required amount transactions (up to ten) from each statement, and obtained supporting documentation for the transactions. For each transaction, we observed that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identified precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals.
  - a) Procedure Results – Not required due to no exceptions in the area in the prior year.

***Travel and Expense Reimbursement***

---

14. We obtained from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. We randomly selected five reimbursements, and obtained the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the five reimbursements selected:
  - If reimbursed using a per diem, we agreed the reimbursement rate to those rates established by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration ([www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)).
  - If reimbursed using actual costs, we observed that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.
  - We observed that each reimbursement was supported by documentation of the business/public purpose and other documentation required by written policy.
  - We observed that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.
  - a) Procedure Results – Not required due to no exceptions in the area in the prior year.

***Contracts***

---

15. We obtained from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials, and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. We obtained management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected the required amount of contracts (up to five) from the listing, and:
- We observed that the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.
  - We observed that the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g. Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).
  - If the contract was amended (e.g. change order), we observed that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment.
  - We randomly selected one payment from the fiscal period for each of the selected contracts, obtained the supporting invoice, agreed the invoice to the contract terms, and observed that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.
- a) Procedure Results – Not required due to no exceptions in this area in the prior year.

***Payroll and Personnel***

---

16. We obtained a listing of employees/elected officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected five employees/officials, obtained related paid salaries and personnel files, and agreed paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
17. We randomly selected one pay period during the fiscal period. For the five employees/officials selected under #16 above, we obtained attendance and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
- a) We observed that all selected employees/officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory).
  - b) We observed that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees/officials.
  - c) We observed that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.
18. We obtained a listing of those employees/officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. If applicable, we selected the two employees/officials, and obtained related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations. If applicable, we agreed the hours to the employees/officials' cumulative leave records and the pay rates to the employee/officials' authorized pay rates in the employee/officials' personnel files.
19. We obtained management's representation that employer and employee portions of payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, and workers' compensation premiums have been paid, and associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.
- a) Procedure Results – Not required due to no exceptions in the area in the prior year.

***Ethics (excluding nonprofits)***

---

20. Using the five randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #16 under “Payroll and Personnel” above, we obtained ethics compliance documentation from management, and:
- We observed that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the fiscal period.
  - We observed that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official attested through signature verification that he or she has read the entity’s ethics policy during the fiscal period.
- a) Procedure Results – Not required due to no exceptions in this area in the prior year.

***Debt Service (excluding nonprofits)***

---

21. We obtained a listing of bonds/notes issued during the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing is complete. We selected all bonds/notes on the listing, obtained supporting documentation, and observed that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each bond/note issued.
22. We obtained a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected one bond/note, inspected debt covenants, obtained supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agreed actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants.
- a) Procedure Results – No procedures were performed as there was no outstanding debt or debt issued during this fiscal period.

***Other***

---

23. We obtained a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing is complete. We selected all misappropriations on the listing, obtained supporting documentation, and observed that the entity reported the misappropriation to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled.
24. We observed whether the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.
- a) Procedure Results – Not required due to no exceptions in this area in the prior year.

We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

*Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's*

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA’s  
Natchitoches, Louisiana

November 11, 2019