



**REGISTER OF WILLS  
LEHIGH COUNTY  
EXAMINATION REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 7, 2008 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012**

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE - AUDITOR GENERAL**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**



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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL

### Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Daniel P. Meuser  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17128

We have examined the accompanying statement of receipts and disbursements (Statement) of the Register of Wills, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania (County Officer), for the period January 7, 2008 to December 31, 2012, pursuant to the requirements of Sections 401(b) and 401(d) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 401(b) and § 401(d). This Statement is the responsibility of the county office's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this Statement based on our examination.

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

We are mandated by Sections 401(b) and 401(d) of *The Fiscal Code* to audit the accounts of each county officer to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported and promptly remitted. *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States include attestation engagements as a separate type of audit. An attestation engagement performed pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards* involves additional standards that exceed the standards provided by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Accordingly, this attestation engagement complies with both *Government Auditing Standards* and Sections 401(b) and 401(d) of *The Fiscal Code*.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

In our opinion, the Statement referred to above presents, in all material respects, the operations of the County Officer as it pertains to receipts made on behalf of the Commonwealth for the period January 7, 2008 to December 31, 2012, in conformity with the criteria set forth in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report findings of significant deficiencies in internal control, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that are material to the Statement and any fraud and illegal acts that are more than inconsequential that come to our attention during our examination. We are also required to obtain the views of management on those matters. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Statement is presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the internal control over reporting on the Statement or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

A control deficiency 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 misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the County Officer's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report data reliably in accordance with the applicable criteria such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the County Officer's Statement that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the County Officer's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency or combination of significant deficiencies that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the Statement will not be prevented or detected by the County Officer's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over reporting on the Statement was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses, as defined above, in internal control over reporting on the Statement.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, and the County Officer and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



March 6, 2014

**EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE**  
Auditor General

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REGISTER OF WILLS  
LEHIGH COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 7, 2008 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

Receipts:

Inheritance Taxes	\$ 102,476,887
Judicial Computer System/Access To Justice Fees	<u>110,610</u>
Total Receipts (Note 2)	102,587,497
Disbursements and credits to Commonwealth (Note 4)	<u>(102,587,390)</u>
Balance due Commonwealth (County) per settled reports (Note 5)	107
Examination adjustments	<u>-</u>
Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (County) for the period January 7, 2008 to December 31, 2012	<u><u>\$ 107</u></u>

Notes to the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements are an integral part of this report.

REGISTER OF WILLS  
LEHIGH COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 7, 2008 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

1. Criteria

The Statement of Receipts and Disbursements provides a summary of receipts and disbursements by category. The categories and the amounts of taxes and fees assessed are based on Pennsylvania laws and regulations.

The Statements were prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Under this method, only the Commonwealth portion of cash receipts and disbursements are presented, revenues are recognized when received, and expenditures are recognized when paid.

2. Receipts

Receipts consist of monies collected on behalf of the Commonwealth. These include monies collected for the following taxes and fees:

- Inheritance Taxes represent inheritance taxes filed with the Register of Wills.
- Judicial Computer System/Access To Justice Fees represent a \$10 fee imposed for the initiation of any civil action or legal proceeding, including the filing of petitions for grants of letters, and first filing in petitions concerning adoptions, incompetents' estates, minors' estates, and inter vivos trusts. These fees were increased to \$23.50 for the period December 8, 2009 to December 31, 2014.

3. Commissions

Acting in the capacity of an agent for the Commonwealth, the county office is paid a commission for collection of Inheritance Taxes. Effective January 1, 1988, the commission rate is 4.25 percent of \$1.00 to \$200,000.00 collected, 1.75 percent of \$200,000.01 to \$1,000,000.00 collected, and .50 percent of all collections in excess of \$1,000,000.00. During the period under review, the County was paid \$602,393.00 by the Department of Revenue which is not reflected in the statement of receipts and disbursements.

REGISTER OF WILLS  
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NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
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4. Disbursements And Credits

Inheritance Taxes

The Register of Wills participates in the Department of Revenue's cash management system for Inheritance Taxes. Under this system, the "Agent" deposits Inheritance Tax collections to a local account approved and established in the name of the Department of Revenue, thereby eliminating the need for the agent to issue a check to disburse these taxes.

Disbursements

Total disbursements and credits are comprised as follows:

Deposits into the Department of Revenue's cash management account	\$102,168,960
Credits issued by the Department of Revenue	307,820
Checks issued to the Department of Revenue for Judicial Computer System/Access To Justice Fees	<u>110,610</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 102,587,390</u></u>

5. Balance Due Commonwealth (County) For The Period January 7, 2008 To December 31, 2012

This balance reflects a summary of monthly transmittal reports as settled by the Department of Revenue.

6. County Officer Serving During Examination Period

Andrea E. Naugle served as Register of Wills during the period for the period January 7, 2008 to December 31, 2012.

REGISTER OF WILLS  
LEHIGH COUNTY  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR THE PERIOD  
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This report was initially distributed to:

The Honorable Daniel P. Meuser  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

The Honorable Zygmunt Pines  
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Courts  
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

The Honorable Andrea E. Naugle	Register of Wills
The Honorable Glenn Eckhart	Controller
The Honorable Lisa Scheller	Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 231 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. To view this report online or to contact the Department of the Auditor General, please access our web site at [www.auditorgen.state.pa.us](http://www.auditorgen.state.pa.us).