



DISTRICT COURT 07-2-07

BUCKS COUNTY

EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2005 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007

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Independent Auditor's Report

Mr. Stephen H. Stetler
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue
Harrisburg, PA 17128

We have examined the accompanying statement of receipts and disbursements (Statement) of District Court 07-2-07, Bucks County, Pennsylvania (District Court), for the period January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2007, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 401(c). This Statement is the responsibility of the District Court'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 Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code* to audit the accounts of each district court 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 Section 401(c) 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 District Court as it pertains to receipts made on behalf of the Commonwealth for the period ended December 31, 2007, 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 District Court'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 District Court's Statement that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the District Court's internal control. We consider the deficiency described in the finding below to be a significant deficiency in internal control over the reporting on the Statement:

- Inadequate Internal Controls Over Facsimile Signature Stamp.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

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 District Court's internal control. Our consideration of the internal control over reporting on the Statement would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. We consider the significant deficiency described above to be a material weakness.

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 District Court and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

October 29, 2008

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General



DISTRICT COURT 07-2-07
BUCKS COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2005 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007

Receipts:

Department of Transportation		
Title 75 Fines	\$	248,899
Motor Carrier Road Tax Fines		2,237
Overweight Fines		10,604
Commercial Driver Fines		1,879
Littering Law Fines		602
Child Restraint Fines		274
Department of Revenue Court Costs		209,279
Crime Victims' Compensation Bureau Costs		17,233
Crime Commission Costs/Victim Witness Services Costs		12,416
Department of Public Welfare		
Domestic Violence Costs		3,991
Attend Care Fines		95
Emergency Medical Service Fines		100,845
CAT/MCARE Fund Surcharges		315,288
Judicial Computer System Fees		103,184
Access to Justice Fees		24,378
Constable Service Surcharges		12,338
Department of Labor and Industry Fines		300
		<hr/>
Total receipts (Note 2)	\$	1,063,842
Disbursements to Commonwealth (Note 3)		<hr/> <u>(1,063,842)</u>
Balance due Commonwealth (District Court) per settled reports (Note 4)		-
Examination adjustments		<hr/> <u>-</u>
Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (District Court) for the period January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2007	\$	<hr/> <u><u>-</u></u>

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

DISTRICT COURT 07-2-07
BUCKS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2005 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007

1. Criteria

The Statement of Receipts and Disbursements (Statement) has been prepared in accordance with Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S § 401(c), which requires the Department of the Auditor General to determine whether all money collected on behalf of the Commonwealth has been remitted promptly and to provide the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue (Department of Revenue) with a report to enable them to settle an account covering any delinquency.

The Statement was prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the 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 are comprised of fines, costs, fees, and surcharges collected on behalf of the Commonwealth. These fines, costs, fees, and surcharges represent collections made on traffic, non-traffic, civil, and criminal cases filed with the District Court.

3. Disbursements

Total disbursements are comprised as follows:

District Court checks issued to:

Department of Revenue	<u><u>\$ 1,063,842</u></u>
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4. Balance Due Commonwealth (District Court) For The Period January 1, 2005 To December 31, 2007

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

5. Magisterial District Judge Serving During Examination Period

Donald Nasshorn served at District Court 07-2-07 for the period January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2007.

DISTRICT COURT 07-2-07
BUCKS COUNTY
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2005 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007

Finding - Inadequate Internal Controls Over Facsimile Signature Stamp

Our examination of the district court disclosed that a facsimile signature stamp was kept in a locked safe. However, the stamp is accessible to any and all employees.

Good internal controls ensure that effective measures be implemented to protect against inappropriate use of the Magisterial District Judge's signature. Only the Magisterial District Judge should have access to the facsimile signature stamp and the stamp should be stored in a secured location.

This condition existed because the district court failed to establish and implement an adequate system of internal controls over the facsimile signature stamp.

Without a good system of internal control over the facsimile signature stamp by the office, the potential is increased that documents could be fraudulently authorized and that funds could be misappropriated.

Recommendation

We recommend that the district court implement good internal controls over the access to the facsimile signature stamp by restricting the availability of the facsimile signature stamp to the Magisterial District Judge only.

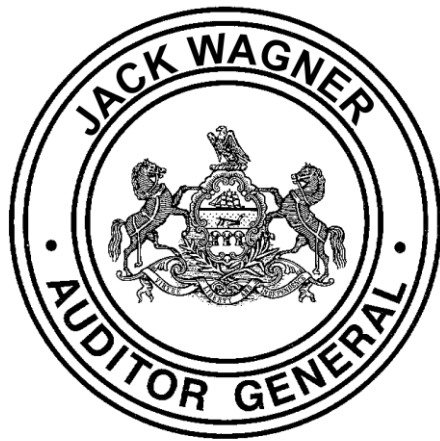
Management's Response

The Magisterial District Judge responded as follows:

The Bucks County Court of Common Pleas Administrative Order Number 42 dated August 2000 says, "A district justice may authorize the use of a facsimile signature in lieu of an original signature on those forms where such signatures are permitted by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts."

Auditor's Conclusion

Although we recognize the Magisterial District Judge's right to use the facsimile signature stamp as permitted by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, it is imperative that access to the stamp be limited to the judge only. Without controlling access to the stamp, the potential for funds to be misappropriated increases significantly.



DISTRICT COURT 07-2-07
BUCKS COUNTY
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2005 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007

This report was initially distributed to:

Mr. Stephen H. Stetler
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

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

District Court 07-2-07
Bucks County
28 North State Street
Newtown, PA 18940

The Honorable Donald Nasshorn	Magisterial District Judge
Douglas R. Praul, Esquire	District Court Administrator
The Honorable Charles H. Martin	Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Raymond McHugh	Controller

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, 318 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.