

**AUDIT REPORT
OF
LANCASTER COUNTY COURT
JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000**

LANCASTER COUNTY COURT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Financial Section</u>	
Independent Auditors' Report	1 - 2
Financial Statement:	
Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities - Agency Funds - For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2000	3
Notes to Financial Statement	4
<u>Government Auditing Standards Section</u>	
Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>	5 - 6

STATE OF NEBRASKA
Auditor of Public Accounts



Kate Witek
State Auditor
kwitek05@nol.org

P.O. Box 98917
Suite 2303, State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509
402-471-2111, FAX 402-471-3301

Mr. Joseph C. Steele
State Court Administrator
Room 1220 - State Capitol Building
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

LANCASTER COUNTY COURT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the financial statement of Lancaster County Court as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000, as listed in the Table of Contents. The financial statement is the responsibility of the Court's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit.

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

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statement presents only the Court's Agency Funds activity and is not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of Lancaster County Court in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Agency Funds of Lancaster County Court as of June 30, 2000, and the related activity for the fiscal year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated September 12, 2000, on our consideration of Lancaster County Court's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The report on compliance and on internal control over financial reporting is an integral part of a Government Auditing Standards audit and should be considered in conjunction with the report on the financial statements.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deann Hasfner CPA". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the date.

September 12, 2000

Deputy State Auditor

LANCASTER COUNTY COURT
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AGENCY FUNDS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2000

	Balance July 1, 1999	Additions	Deductions	Balance June 30, 2000
ASSETS				
Cash and Deposits	\$ 950,631	\$ 7,264,423	\$ 7,243,085	\$ 971,969
LIABILITIES				
Due to State Treasurer:				
Regular Fees	\$ 54,945	\$ 1,133,695	\$ 1,135,584	\$ 53,056
Law Enforcement Fees	3,769	74,817	75,020	3,566
Interest	-	13,573	13,573	-
State Judges Retirement Fund	2,529	54,735	54,822	2,442
Automation Fees	66	1,305	1,340	31
Legal Services Fees	3,778	75,194	75,372	3,600
Due to County Treasurer:				
Regular Fines	45,756	934,633	925,814	54,575
Overload Fines	13,892	107,892	117,084	4,700
Regular Fees	4,777	246,232	240,776	10,233
Due to Municipalities:				
Regular Fines	89,914	1,953,072	1,952,040	90,946
Regular Fees	6,978	146,686	147,414	6,250
Trust Fund Benefits, Payable	724,227	2,522,589	2,504,246	742,570
 Total Liabilities	 \$ 950,631	 \$ 7,264,423	 \$ 7,243,085	 \$ 971,969

See Notes to Financial Statement.

**LANCASTER COUNTY COURT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

June 30, 2000

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Reporting Entity

The Lancaster County Court is established by State Statute and is administratively operated through the Court Administrator's Office of the Nebraska Supreme Court, which is part of the State of Nebraska reporting entity. The Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities of the County Court reflects only the Agency Funds activity of the Court; the receipts, and their subsequent disbursement to the appropriate entities for which they were collected. The financial statement does not reflect the personal services expenses of the Court, which are paid by the Nebraska Supreme Court, or the operating expenses, which are paid by Lancaster County.

B. Basis of Accounting

The accounting records of the County Court Agency Funds are maintained, and the Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities has been prepared, on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this basis of accounting, fines, fees, and receipts relating to trust funds are shown as additions to assets and as an increase in the related liability when received because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Likewise, disbursements are shown as deductions to assets and a decrease in the related liability when a check is written.

2. Deposits and Investments

Funds held by the County Court are deposited and invested in accordance with rules issued by the Supreme Court as directed by Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 25-2713 R.R.S., 1995. Funds are generally consolidated in an interest-bearing checking account; however, the Court may order certain trust funds to be invested separately. Any deposits in excess of the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation are required by Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 77-2326.04 R.R.S., 1996, to be secured either by a surety bond or pledged collateral securities.

The carrying amounts and bank balances of total deposits consisting of checking accounts and money market accounts, were as follows:

	Total Cash and Deposit Carrying Amount	Cash Amount	Deposit Carrying Amount	Bank Balance
June 30, 2000	\$ 971,969	\$ 900	\$ 971,069	\$ 1,229,179

However, Funds were entirely covered by federal depository insurance or by collateral securities pledged to the Court and held by a Federal Reserve Bank, or by a Bank or trust company in this State other than the depository bank, during the entire year.

STATE OF NEBRASKA
Auditor of Public Accounts



Kate Witek
State Auditor
kwitek05@nol.org

P.O. Box 98917
Suite 2303, State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509
402-471-2111, FAX 402-471-3301

**LANCASTER COUNTY COURT
REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

We have audited the financial statement of Lancaster County Court as of and for the year ended June 30, 2000, and have issued our report thereon dated September 12, 2000. The report was modified to emphasize that the financial statement presents only the Agency Funds of Lancaster County Court. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Lancaster County Court's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Lancaster County Court's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk

that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Court, the appropriate Federal and regulatory agencies, and citizens of the State of Nebraska, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deann Hasfner CPA". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the date.

September 12, 2000

Deputy State Auditor