

**ATTESTATION REPORT  
OF  
STANTON COUNTY COURT**

**JULY 1, 2009 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2011**

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**Issued on June 21, 2012**

# STANTON COUNTY COURT

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# STANTON COUNTY COURT

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

During our examination of Stanton County Court, we noted a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness and another operational matter that is presented here.

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 misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the financial schedule will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

These comments and recommendations are intended to improve the internal control over financial reporting or result in operational efficiencies in the following areas:

- 1. *Segregation of Duties:*** Considered to be a material weakness, one individual was capable of handling all phases of a transaction from beginning to end.
- 2. *Unclaimed Property:*** The County Court did not report and remit trust balances to the State Treasurer that were over three years old as required by State statute.

More detailed information on the above items is provided hereafter. It should be noted that this report is critical in nature as it contains only our comments and recommendations on the areas noted for improvement and does not include our observations on any accounting strengths of the County Court.

Draft copies of this report were furnished to the County Court to provide them an opportunity to review the report and to respond to the comments and recommendations included in this report. The County Court declined to respond.

# STANTON COUNTY COURT

## COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Segregation of Duties

Good internal control includes a plan of organization, procedures, and records designed to safeguard assets and provide reliable financial records. A system of internal control should include proper segregation of duties so no one individual is capable of handling all phases of a transaction from beginning to end.

We noted the office of the County Court had a lack of segregation of duties as one person was capable of handling all aspects of processing transactions from beginning to end. A lack of segregation of duties increases the risk of possible errors or irregularities; however, due to a limited number of personnel, an adequate segregation of duties is not possible without additional cost. Further, personnel are under the direction of both the Nebraska State Court Administrator and the Presiding Judge. We have noted this comment in previous examinations.

We recommend the County Court and the Nebraska State Court Administrator review this situation. As always, the cost of hiring additional personnel versus the benefit of a proper segregation of duties must be weighed.

### 2. Unclaimed Property

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 69-1310 (Reissue 2009), the Unclaimed Property Act, provides any unclaimed property, after three years, is presumed abandoned. Any presumed abandoned property, as of June 30 each year, must be reported and remitted to the State Treasurer by November 1 of each year.

As of June 30, 2010, the County Court had one \$435 outstanding check which had been outstanding in excess of four years and should have been reported and remitted to the State Treasurer by November 1, 2009. As of June 14, 2012, this check had not yet been reported and remitted in accordance with the Unclaimed Property Act.

We recommend the County Court work to promptly remit all unclaimed property in its possession in accordance with State statute.



## NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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Mike Foley  
State Auditor

Mike.Foley@nebraska.gov  
P.O. Box 98917  
State Capitol, Suite 2303  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509  
402-471-2111, FAX 402-471-3301  
www.auditors.state.ne.us

### STANTON COUNTY COURT

#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

We have examined the accompanying Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions of Stanton County Court as of and for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2010. The County Court's management is responsible for the Schedules. Our responsibility is to express an opinion 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 and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the Schedules and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the Schedules referred to above present, in all material respects, the assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the Agency Funds of Stanton County Court as of June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2010, and the related activity for the fiscal years then ended, based on the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court as described in Note 1.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Supreme Court, others within the County Court, and the appropriate Federal and regulatory agencies. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

June 14, 2012

Deann Haeffner, CPA  
Assistant Deputy Auditor

**STANTON COUNTY COURT**  
**STANTON, NEBRASKA**  
**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS**  
**AGENCY FUNDS**

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2011

	<u>Balance</u> <u>July 1, 2010</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>June 30, 2011</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and Deposits	\$ 31,338	\$ 174,094	\$ 177,347	\$ 28,085
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Due to State Treasurer:				
Regular Fees	\$ 2,704	\$ 26,633	\$ 27,408	\$ 1,929
Law Enforcement Fees	359	3,328	3,452	235
State Judges Retirement Fund	1,127	10,190	10,571	746
Court Administrative Fees	1,895	18,099	18,707	1,287
Legal Services Fees	1,268	11,107	11,585	790
Due to County Treasurer:				
Regular Fines	8,617	74,139	77,009	5,747
Overload Fines	300	1,950	1,600	650
Regular Fees	32	2,281	2,200	113
Due to Municipalities:				
Regular Fines	-	2,345	2,345	-
Trust Fund Payable	<u>15,036</u>	<u>24,022</u>	<u>22,470</u>	<u>16,588</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 31,338</u>	<u>\$ 174,094</u>	<u>\$ 177,347</u>	<u>\$ 28,085</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the schedule.

**STANTON COUNTY COURT**  
**STANTON, NEBRASKA**  
**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS**  
**AGENCY FUNDS**

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010

	Balance July 1, 2009	Additions	Deductions	Balance June 30, 2010
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and Deposits	\$ 35,368	\$ 184,165	\$ 188,195	\$ 31,338
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Due to State Treasurer:				
Regular Fees	\$ 2,705	\$ 29,637	\$ 29,638	\$ 2,704
Law Enforcement Fees	221	3,131	2,993	359
State Judges Retirement Fund	852	10,429	10,154	1,127
Court Administrative Fees	1,772	18,418	18,295	1,895
Legal Services Fees	1,070	11,792	11,594	1,268
Due to County Treasurer:				
Regular Fines	8,679	83,372	83,434	8,617
Overload Fines	150	1,325	1,175	300
Regular Fees	34	1,467	1,469	32
Due to Municipalities:				
Regular Fines	100	385	485	-
Trust Fund Payable	19,785	24,209	28,958	15,036
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 35,368</b>	<b>\$ 184,165</b>	<b>\$ 188,195</b>	<b>\$ 31,338</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the schedule.

**STANTON COUNTY COURT**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL SCHEDULES**  
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2010

**1. Criteria**

**A. Reporting Entity**

The Stanton 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 Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions of the County Court reflect only the Agency Funds activity of the County Court; the receipts, and their subsequent disbursement to the appropriate entities for which they were collected. The Schedules do not reflect the personal services expenses of the County Court, which are paid by the Nebraska Supreme Court, or the operating expenses, which are paid by Stanton County.

**B. Basis of Accounting**

The accounting records of the County Court Agency Funds are maintained, and the Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions have been prepared, based on the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court. Under this system 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. 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. § 25-2713 (Reissue 2008). Funds are generally consolidated in an interest-bearing checking account; however, the County 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. § 77-2326.04 (Reissue 2009) to be secured either by a surety bond or as provided in the Public Funds Deposit Security Act.