

**SPECIAL PURPOSE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida**

September 30, 2015



# SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida

September 30, 2015

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS ON SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS PREPARED IN COMPLIANCE WITH A REGULATORY PROVISION**

Honorable Joseph E. Smith  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida

We have audited the accompanying special purpose fund financial statements of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, St. Lucie County, Florida as of and for the year ended September 30, 2015.

**Management's Responsibility for the Special-Purpose Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these special-purpose 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 the special-purpose 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 special-purpose 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the special-purpose financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the special-purpose financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the special-purpose 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 special-purpose 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 special-purpose financial statements.

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

Fort Pierce / Stuart



Honorable Joseph E. Smith  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida

## **Opinion**

In our opinion, the special-purpose fund financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund financial position of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, St. Lucie County, Florida as of September 30, 2015, and the changes in fund financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General and Special Revenue Funds for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Emphasis of Matter**

### *Basis of Presentation*

As described in Note 1, the accompanying special-purpose fund financial statements were prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(2), *Florida Statutes*, and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits*, and are not intended to be a complete presentation of the financial position and changes in financial position of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, St. Lucie County, Florida. Additionally, the special-purpose fund financial statements present only the Clerk of the Circuit Court, St. Lucie County, Florida and are not intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of St. Lucie County, Florida, taken as a whole.

## **Other Matters**

### *Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Clerk of the Circuit Court's fund financial statements. The statement of changes in assets and liabilities – agency funds is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the fund financial statements.

The statement of changes in assets and liabilities – agency funds is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the fund financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the fund financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the fund financial statements or to the fund financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the statement of changes in assets and liabilities is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the fund financial statements as a whole.

Honorable Joseph E. Smith  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida

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

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated January 29, 2016 on our consideration of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, St. Lucie County, Florida 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 the 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 the Circuit Court, St. Lucie County, Florida internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

### **Restrictions on Use**

This report is intended solely for the information and use of Management, the Clerk of the Circuit Court and the Board of County Commissioners, St. Lucie County, Florida, the State of Florida Auditor General and applicable Federal and State agencies, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Berger, Toombs, Elam,  
Gaines & Frank*

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank  
Certified Public Accountants PL  
Fort Pierce, Florida

January 29, 2016

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida  
BALANCE SHEET  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
September 30, 2015**

	General Fund	Public Records Modernization Fund	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and investments	\$ 3,223,331	\$ 683,506	\$ 3,906,837
Accounts receivable	959	-	959
Due from other governments	74,310	-	74,310
Other assets	530	-	530
	<b>\$ 3,299,130</b>	<b>\$ 683,506</b>	<b>\$ 3,982,636</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>			
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 322,465	\$ 23,976	\$ 346,441
Accrued liabilities	242,601	12,733	255,334
Deposits payable	1,118,165	-	1,118,165
Due to other governments	1,615,899	118	1,616,017
	<b>3,299,130</b>	<b>36,827</b>	<b>3,335,957</b>
 <b>Fund balances:</b>			
<b>Restricted:</b>			
Court modernization	-	646,679	646,679
	<b>\$ 3,299,130</b>	<b>\$ 683,506</b>	<b>\$ 3,982,636</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
For the Year Ended September 30, 2015**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Public Records Modernization Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Intergovernmental	\$ 904,528	\$ 9,000	\$ 913,528
Charges for services	6,317,674	614,264	6,931,938
Fines and forfeitures	1,733,406	429,998	2,163,404
Interest	47,897	2,421	50,318
Miscellaneous	101,302	17,916	119,218
Total Revenues	<u>9,104,807</u>	<u>1,073,599</u>	<u>10,178,406</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Current:			
General government	2,536,947	-	2,536,947
Court related	7,536,193	774,355	8,310,548
Capital outlay	140,833	331,287	472,120
Total Expenditures	<u>10,213,973</u>	<u>1,105,642</u>	<u>11,319,615</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(1,109,166)</u>	<u>(32,043)</u>	<u>(1,141,209)</u>
<b>Other financing sources (uses)</b>			
Transfers from Board of County Commissioners	1,807,818	-	1,807,818
Transfers to Board of County Commissioners	(698,652)	-	(698,652)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>1,109,166</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,109,166</u>
Net change in fund balance	-	(32,043)	(32,043)
Fund Balances - October 1, 2014	-	678,722	678,722
Fund Balances - September 30, 2015	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 646,679</u>	<u>\$ 646,679</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



**Clerk of the Circuit Court**  
**St. Lucie County, Florida**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2015**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues</b>				
Intergovernmental	\$ 2,013,736	\$ 904,528	\$ 904,528	\$ -
Charges for services	5,918,870	6,317,674	6,317,674	-
Fines and forfeitures	1,410,000	1,733,406	1,733,406	-
Interest	7,350	47,897	47,897	-
Miscellaneous	10,850	101,302	101,302	-
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>9,360,806</u>	<u>9,104,807</u>	<u>9,104,807</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
General government	3,310,331	2,536,947	2,536,947	-
Court related	7,764,923	7,536,193	7,536,193	-
Capital outlay	25,000	140,833	140,833	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>11,100,254</u>	<u>10,213,973</u>	<u>10,213,973</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(1,739,448)</u>	<u>(1,109,166)</u>	<u>(1,109,166)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Other financing sources (uses)</b>				
Transfers from Board of County Commissioners	1,739,448	1,807,818	1,807,818	-
Transfers to Board of County Commissioners	-	(698,652)	(698,652)	-
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<u>1,739,448</u>	<u>1,109,166</u>	<u>1,109,166</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balance	-	-	-	-
Fund Balances - October 1, 2014	-	-	-	-
Fund Balances - September 30, 2015	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Clerk of the Circuit Court**  
**St. Lucie County, Florida**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**PUBLIC RECORDS MODERNIZATION FUND**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2015**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues</b>				
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -
Charges for services	570,000	570,000	614,264	44,264
Fines and forfeitures	420,300	429,998	429,998	-
Interest	670	1,261	2,421	1,160
Miscellaneous	60,000	60,000	17,916	(42,084)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,050,970</b>	<b>1,070,259</b>	<b>1,073,599</b>	<b>3,340</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Current:</b>				
Court related	1,053,236	919,356	774,355	145,001
Capital outlay	119,268	335,387	331,287	4,100
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,172,504</b>	<b>1,254,743</b>	<b>1,105,642</b>	<b>149,101</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures</b>	<b>(121,534)</b>	<b>(184,484)</b>	<b>(32,043)</b>	<b>152,441</b>
<b>Fund Balance - October 1, 2014</b>	<b>121,534</b>	<b>184,484</b>	<b>678,722</b>	<b>494,238</b>
<b>Fund Balance - September 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 646,679</b>	<b>\$ 646,679</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida  
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET ASSETS - AGENCY FUND  
September 30, 2015**

**Assets**

Cash and investments	<u>\$ 13,766,416</u>
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**Liabilities**

Due to other governments	\$ 3,955,921
Agency funds on hand	<u>9,810,495</u>

Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 13,766,416</u>
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See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2015**

**Note 1 - Summary of the Significant Accounting Policies**

The summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, St. Lucie County, Florida, is summarized below.

Reporting Entity

The Clerk of the Circuit Court is a county officer as established by Article VIII, Section (1) (d) of the Constitution of the State of Florida.

For financial statement and reporting purposes, the Clerk of the Circuit Court does not meet the definition of a legally separate organization and is not considered to be a component unit. The Clerk of the Circuit Court is considered to be part of the primary government of St. Lucie County, Florida. The financial statements contained herein represent the financial transactions of the Clerk of the Circuit Court only and do not represent the financial transactions of the primary government of St. Lucie County, Florida.

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the fund financial statements presentation requirements of GASB Statement No. 34.

Fund Description

The Clerk of the Circuit Court maintains financial records and accounts on the basis of governmental and fiduciary funds.

a. Governmental Funds

General Fund – The General Fund is used to account for the general operations of the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Special Revenue Fund – The Public Records Modernization Fund is used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditure for specified purposes.

b. Fiduciary Fund

Agency Fund – The Agency Fund is used to report assets held in a trustee or agency capacity for others and therefore cannot be used to support the Clerk's own programs.

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2015**

**Note 1 - Summary of the Significant Accounting Policies - Continued**

Bases of Accounting, Measurement Focus and Presentation

Governmental fund financial statements report using the current financial resources measurement focus and are maintained on the modified accrual basis. The agency fund reports only assets and liabilities; therefore, it does not have a measurement focus. However, it uses the accrual basis of accounting to recognize receivables and payables. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting revenues are generally recognized when they become measurable and available and expenditures are recognized when incurred. Revenues collected in excess of expenditures are not considered earned and are reflected as liabilities.

Budget

An operating budget for the General Fund is prepared by the Clerk of the Circuit Court and submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for approval and to the Florida Court Clerk Operations Corporation for the court related functions pursuant to State Statutes. The Clerk also prepares a budget for the Public Records Modernization special revenue fund. The budgets are prepared on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

Capital Assets

Acquisitions of equipment with a cost of \$1,000 or more are recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase for governmental fund financial statements. The equipment is reported to and capitalized by the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to State Statutes.

Accrued Compensated Absences

Accrued compensated absences reflect the liability of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the employees' rights to receive future compensation for their accrued annual leave and vested sick leave, since the Clerk of the Circuit Court does not, nor is the Clerk legally required to, accumulate financial resources to liquidate this obligation, the liability for accrued compensated absences is not reported in the governmental fund.

Transfers

All revenues and other sources in excess of expenditures in the General Fund non-court related operations at year-end are owed to the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with State Statutes. The excess fees for the court related function are owed to the Clerk Trust Fund.

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2015**

**Note 1 - Summary of the Significant Accounting Policies - Continued**

Fund Financial Statements

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 54 - Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, fund balances for governmental funds are reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

The Clerk has various policies governing the fund balance classifications.

**Restricted Fund Balance** – This category includes amounts that have externally imposed restrictions or restrictions imposed by laws.

**Committed Fund Balance** – This category usually consists of contractual obligations which require a formal approval from the Board of County Commissioners. This type of fund balance can only be removed by the Board of County Commissioners through the same approval process. This category also includes an emergency reserve which is established by the Board of County Commissioners. The amount can only be used for natural and manmade disasters.

**Assigned** – This classification includes amounts that are intended by the County to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. Assignments may be made only by the governing body or official.

**Fund Balance Spending Hierarchy** - For all governmental funds except special revenue funds, when restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balances are combined in a fund, qualified expenditures are paid first from restricted or committed fund balance, as appropriate, then assigned and finally unassigned fund balances.

**Note 2 - Cash and Investments**

**A. Deposits**

As of September 30, 2015, the total carrying amount of the deposits with qualified public depositories for governmental activities was \$3,895,052 and the bank balance was \$4,983,789. The carrying amount for agency funds was \$7,742,734 and the bank balance was \$9,905,725. All deposits are insured by federal depository insurance or collateralized under the provisions of Chapter 280, Florida Statutes.

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2015**

**Note 2 - Cash and Investments - Continued**

**B. Investments**

Custodial Credit Risk Deposits

As of September 30, 2015, the Clerk had \$6,023,680 invested in a money market account at a local bank.

Interest Rate Risk

The Clerk of the Circuit Court's only exposure to interest rate risk is the reduction in the interest earned on his investment.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Section 218.401(17), Florida Statutes, limit the type of investments available to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for investment. The Clerk of the Circuit Court has chosen to invest in money market fund accounts.

**Note 3 - Pension Plan**

The employees of the Clerk of the Circuit Court participate in the Florida Retirement System, a cost-sharing multiple-employer plan.

The details of the plan, the funding policies and other pension information are defined in the financial statements and notes to financial statements of St. Lucie County, Florida.

Member contribution rates changed effective July 1, 2011. Employee contributions of 3% are now required. Contributions to the plan by the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were \$544,282 \$520,473 and \$376,099 respectively, which is equal to the required contribution for each year. The employee contribution portion for the year ended September 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$175,992, \$176,737 and \$172,125 respectively.

For those employees who elect participation in the Investment Plan rather than the Pension Plan, vesting occurs at one year of service. These participants receive a contribution for self-direction in an investment product with a third party administrator selected by the State Board of Administration.

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2015**

**Note 4 - Risk Management**

The Clerk of the Circuit Court participates in a public entity risk pool for the purpose of obtaining various insurance coverage other than health and life insurance. Other members of the pool consist of the Board of County Commissioners and the other elected officials, except the Sheriff, two municipalities and another county.

The operations of this public entity risk pool are outlined in the notes to financial statements of St. Lucie County, Florida.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court along with the Board of County Commissioners, Tax Collector, Supervisor of Elections and Property Appraiser are self-insured for group health. Certain former employees are also eligible and participate in the plan. The financial transactions of this plan are accounted for in an internal service fund of the Board of County Commissioners. The cost to the Clerk of the Circuit Court is based on historical claims and totaled \$1,357,995 for the year ended September 30, 2015. Further details of this self-insurance program are discussed in the notes to financial statements of St. Lucie County, Florida.

**Note 5 - Accrued Compensated Absences**

The accrued amount of annual leave and vested sick leave at September 30, 2015, was \$691,529 as compared to \$673,828, the balance at September 30, 2014.

This liability is not reflected in the financial statements of the Clerk of the Circuit Court since it is not payable from available resources.

**Note 6 - Operating Leases**

The Clerk has entered into various leases for office equipment. These leases are considered operating leases for accounting purposes. For the year ended September 30, 2015, lease expenditures totaled \$2,475. All operating lease ended as of June 30, 2015.



**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**Clerk of the Circuit Court**  
**St. Lucie County, Florida**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**AGENCY FUND**  
**September 30, 2015**

	Balance October 1, 2014	Additions	Deletions	Balance September 30, 2015
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and investments	\$ 9,162,661	\$ 205,255,221	\$ 200,651,466	\$ 13,766,416
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Due to other governments	\$ 3,343,210	\$ 39,682,203	\$ 39,069,492	\$ 3,955,921
Agency funds on hand	5,819,451	165,573,018	161,581,974	9,810,495
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 9,162,661</b>	<b>\$ 205,255,221</b>	<b>\$ 200,651,466</b>	<b>\$ 13,766,416</b>

**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***

Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida

September 30, 2015



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**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 Joseph E. Smith  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida

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, the financial statements of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 29, 2016.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Clerk of the Circuit Court's internal control over financial reporting 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 Clerk of the Circuit Court's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Clerk of the Circuit Court's internal control over financial reporting.

*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 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 over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.



Berger, Toombs, Elam,  
Gaines & Frank

Certified Public Accountants PL

Honorable Joseph E. Smith  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Clerk of the Circuit Court's financial statements are free of 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **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.

*Berger, Toombs, Elam,  
Gaines & Frank*

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank  
Certified Public Accountants, PL  
Fort Pierce, Florida

January 29, 2016

**MANAGEMENT LETTER**

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida**

**September 30, 2015**



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## MANAGEMENT LETTER

Honorable Joseph E. Smith  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St Lucie County, Florida

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Clerk of the Circuit Court as of and for the year ended September 30, 2015, and have issued our report thereon dated January 29, 2016.

### Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Florida Auditor General.

### Other Reports and Schedule

We have issued our 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* and Independent Auditor's Report on an examination conducted in accordance with AICPA Professional Standards, Section 601, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in that report, which is dated January 29, 2016, should be considered in conjunction with this Management Letter.

### Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we address in the Management Letter, if not already addressed in the auditor's report on compliance and internal controls, whether or not recommendations made in the preceding annual financial report have been followed. The recommendations made in the preceding audit were corrected in the current year.

### Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.



Berger, Toombs, Elam,  
Gaines & Frank

Certified Public Accountants PL

Honorable Joseph E. Smith  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

### **Other Matters**

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we address in the Management Letter any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we address noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such findings.

### **Purpose of this Letter**

Our Management Letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, the Board of Supervisors, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Berger, Toombs, Elam,  
Gaines & Frank*

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank  
Certified Public Accountants PL  
Fort Pierce, Florida

January 29, 2016



**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT/COMPLIANCE WITH  
SECTION 218.415, FLORIDA STATUTES**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT/COMPLIANCE WITH  
SECTIONS 28.35 AND 28.36, FLORIDA STATUTES**

**Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida**

**September 30, 2015**



Berger, Toombs, Elam,  
Gaines & Frank

Certified Public Accountants PL

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772/461-6120 // 461-1155  
FAX: 772/468-9278

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT/COMPLIANCE WITH  
SECTION 218.415, FLORIDA STATUTES**

Honorable Joseph E. Smith  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida

We have examined Clerk of the Circuit Court's compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes during the year ended September 30, 2015. Management is responsible for the Clerk of the Circuit Court's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Clerk of the Circuit Court's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Clerk of the Circuit Court's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Clerk of the Circuit Court's compliance with the specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Clerk of the Circuit Court complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements during the year ended September 30, 2015.

*Berger, Toombs, Elam,  
Gaines & Frank*

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank  
Certified Public Accountants PL  
Fort Pierce, Florida

January 29, 2016



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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT/COMPLIANCE WITH  
SECTIONS 28.35 AND 28.36, FLORIDA STATUTES**

Honorable Joseph E. Smith  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
St. Lucie County, Florida

We have examined Clerk of the Circuit Court's compliance with Sections 28.35 and 28.36, Florida Statutes during the year ended September 30, 2015. Management is responsible for the Clerk of the Circuit Court's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Clerk of the Circuit Court's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Clerk of the Circuit Court's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Clerk of the Circuit Court's compliance with the specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Clerk of the Circuit Court complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements during the year ended September 30, 2015.

*Berger, Toombs, Elam,  
Gaines & Frank*

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank  
Certified Public Accountants PL  
Fort Pierce, Florida

January 29, 2016