

LAFAYETTE PARISH CLERK OF COURT



ADVISORY SERVICES REPORT
ISSUED MAY 14, 2008

**LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
1600 NORTH THIRD STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 94397
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9397**

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Under the provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of this report has been submitted to the Governor, to the Attorney General, and to other public officials as required by state law. A copy of this report has been made available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and at the office of the parish clerk of court.

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LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
STEVE J. THERIOT, CPA

May 14, 2008

The Honorable Louis Perret
Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court
Post Office Box 2009
Lafayette, Louisiana 70502

Dear Mr. Perret:

We received various allegations regarding the Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court's (clerk) office. These allegations included matters relating to (1) salaries; (2) travel and credit card purchases; (3) contracted services and leases; (4) attorney fees; (5) public records; (6) courthouse security; (7) donating public funds; and (8) use of public property.

We performed a limited review for the period January 1, 2007, through February 29, 2008, to determine the validity of these allegations. Our review consisted of (1) examining selected records of the clerk's office; (2) interviewing certain officials and employees of the clerk's office; (3) reviewing applicable Louisiana laws and Attorney General opinions; and (4) making inquiries of other persons to the extent we considered necessary to achieve our purpose. In addition, we applied our *Checklist of Best Practices in Government* to the financial operations of the clerk.

Based on our limited review for the period mentioned above and from the allegations presented to us, we did not find any misappropriation of funds or violations of state laws. Our limited review was substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards; therefore, we are not offering an opinion on the clerk's financial statements or system of internal control nor assurance as to compliance with laws and regulations.

We would like to thank your office and staff for the courtesies extended to us during the review. Please contact me at (225) 339-3800 should you have any questions or if we can assist you in the future.

Sincerely,

Steve J. Theriot, CPA
Legislative Auditor

SGW:GLM:JSI:dl
LAFCC08

Management's Response



Post Office Box 2009
Lafayette, Louisiana 70502

LOUIS J. PERRET
Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court
15th Judicial District

Phone (337) 291-6400
Fax (337) 291-6392

800 South Buchanan Street
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501

May 12, 2008

Office of the Legislative Auditor
Steve J. Theriot, CPA
Legislative Auditor
1600 North Third Street
P.O. Box 94397
Baton Rouge LA 70804-9397

Via Fax and Hard Copy
(225) 339-3870

Dear Mr. Theriot:

This letter is written to you as a response to the 2008 complaint filed against me, the Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court Office, and your findings regarding the complaint. On April 23, 2008, I met in my office with Legislative Auditor employees Joy Irwin, Sandra Whitehead, and Glenda LeBlanc. During that meeting, I was presented with a draft response by the Legislative Auditors office, which concludes, "**we did not find any misappropriation or violations of state laws**".

Let me state for the record that I believe these are baseless accusations made by the same two individuals that filed complaints against me and my office in 2000 and 2003.

I want to compliment your employees Gary McCrary, Sandra Whitehead, Stuart Dickey, Joy Irwin, Glenda LeBlanc, and Jennifer Schaye. They were very professional in this matter concerning my office.

I take my oath of office seriously, and have worked hard to operate the clerk's office with integrity. As you are aware, the Lafayette Clerk's office is audited annually. I have been told our office is a model for other clerks to follow. I concur with your office's findings that, "**we did not find any misappropriation of funds or violations of state laws**".

If you have any questions or concerns, please telephone me at (337) 291-6306.

Sincerely,

Louis J. Perret
Clerk of Court
Lafayette Parish