

**BERNELL EDWARDS, COURT CLERK
SEQUOYAH COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
STATUTORY REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

This publication is printed and issued by the State Auditor and Inspector as authorized by 20 O.S. § 1312. Pursuant to 74 O.S. § 3105 (B), 6 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$13.34. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

May 2, 2006

Bernell Edwards, Court Clerk
Sequoyah County, Oklahoma

Transmitted herewith is the statutory report for the Sequoyah County Court Clerk, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005. This engagement was conducted in accordance with 20 O.S. §1312. A report of this type is critical in nature; however, we do not intend to imply that there were not commendable features in the present accounting and operating procedures of the Court Clerk.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance and cooperation extended to our office during the conduct of our procedures.

The Office of the State Auditor and Inspector is committed to serve the public interest by providing independent oversight and to issue reports that serve as a management tool to the state to ensure a government which is accountable to the people of the State of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff A. McMahon".

JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory Information ii
Statutory Report of State Auditor and Inspector 1
Court Fund Account Analysis 3
Court Clerk Revolving Fund Analysis 5

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

The Court Clerk is elected by the qualified voters of the County for a term of four years.

The primary responsibilities of the Court Clerk are to record, file and maintain the proceedings of the District Court, and perform other duties as directed by the District Court. Other duties and responsibilities of the Court Clerk are as follows: collecting all required Court fees, issuing warrants, orders, writs, subpoenas, passports and certain licenses, maintaining dockets and financial records for the various divisions of the Court, maintaining an appropriation ledger to control and monitor Court Fund expenditures, disbursing District Court funds in accordance with Court instructions and state statutes, and reviewing Court Fund claims for proper supporting documentation before bringing the claims and vouchers to the Court Fund Board for approval.



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

Bernell Edwards, Court Clerk
Sequoyah County Courthouse
Sallisaw, Oklahoma 74955

Dear Ms. Edwards:

We have performed procedures for fiscal year 2005 activity of the Court Fund Account for the purpose of complying with 20 O.S. § 1312. We have also performed procedures for fiscal year 2005 activity of the Court Clerk Revolving Fund as created by 19 O.S. § 220.

- We tested Court Fund vouchers issued to determine whether the expenditure: (1) was properly supported by a claim, invoice, and receiving documentation, (2) was properly approved, (3) was properly classified, and (4) did not exceed appropriations.
- We tested Court Clerk Revolving Fund vouchers issued to determine whether the expenditure: (1) was properly supported by a claim, invoice, and receiving documentation, and (2) was properly approved.
- We tested District Court vouchers to determine they were properly accounted for and we looked at supporting documentation for disbursements to determine they were issued in accordance with Court instructions.
- We reconciled the Court Fund activity and/or balances to the County Treasurer's records.
- We reconciled the Court Clerk Revolving activity and/or balances to the County Treasurer's records.
- We reconciled the District Court case balances to the County Treasurer's depository ledger.
- We tested receipts issued to determine whether: (1) the correct fee was collected, and (2) the receipt was properly accounted for in the financial records.

All information included in the reconciliations, the Court Fund appropriation ledger, the Court Clerk Revolving Fund, the monthly reports, and the cash receipts journal is the representation of the Court Clerk.

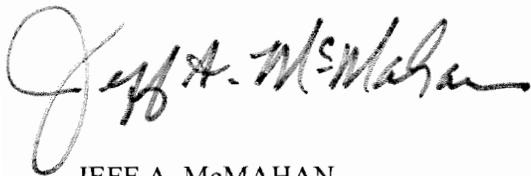
Our Court Clerk's engagement was limited to the procedures performed above and was less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on any general-purpose financial statements of Sequoyah County.

Based on the above reconciliations, tests, and procedures performed; the Court Clerk is collecting the correct fees and is properly accounting for them; Court Fund vouchers were properly supported, approved, classified, and did not exceed appropriations; Court Clerk Revolving Fund expenditures were properly supported and approved; District Court vouchers were properly accounted for and issued in accordance with Court instructions; Court Fund activity, Court Clerk Revolving Fund financial records, and District Court case balances reconciled with the County Treasurer's records.

We have prepared detailed analysis of the Court Fund Account and of the Court Clerk Revolving Fund, which are presented following this report.

This report is intended for the information and use of the Sequoyah County Court Fund Board and the Administrative Office of the Courts. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff A. McMAHAN". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

April 13, 2006

**BERNELL EDWARDS, COURT CLERK
SEQUOYAH COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
COURT FUND ACCOUNT ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2005**

Collections:

Court fund fines, fees, and forfeitures	\$ 869,226
Interest earned on deposits	1,928
Cancelled vouchers	380
Total collections	<u>871,534</u>

Deductions:

Lump sum budget categories:

Juror expenses	22,125
Indigent defense witness expense	81
Trial court (attorneys)	9,884
Mental health (attorneys)	3,150
Transcripts - preliminary & trial	1,006
Transcripts - appeals	2,139
General office supplies	9,225
Forms printing	4,096
Publications	5,372
Books for records, indexes	216
Postage and freight	8,589
Court reporter supplies	1,325
Utilities	13,361
General telephone expense	2,104
Long-distance telephone	405
Other expenses	900
Total lump sum categories	<u>83,978</u>

**BERNELL EDWARDS, COURT CLERK
SEQUOYAH COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
COURT FUND ACCOUNT ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2005**

Restricted budget categories:	
Renovation & remodeling	26,175
Maintenance of court area	4,200
Furniture & fixtures	24,919
Equipment purchases	5,017
Equipment rentals	6,054
Maintenance of equipment	9,969
OCIS services	22,680
Photocopy equipment rental	3,464
Part-time bailiffs	973
Part-time court clerk employees	147,314
Total restricted categories	<u>250,765</u>
Mandated budget categories:	
Law library	9,000
State judicial fund	<u>580,089</u>
Total mandated categories	<u>589,089</u>
Total deductions	<u>923,832</u>
Collections over (under) deductions	(52,298)
Beginning account balance	<u>166,442</u>
Ending account balance	<u><u>\$ 114,144</u></u>

**BERNELL EDWARDS, COURT CLERK
SEQUOYAH COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
COURT CLERK REVOLVING FUND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2005**

Collections:	
Court fund revolving fees	\$ 25,897
Total collections	<u>25,897</u>
Deductions:	
Other	<u>32,684</u>
Total deductions	<u>32,684</u>
Collections over (under) deductions	(6,787)
Beginning account balance	<u>41,734</u>
Ending account balance	<u><u>\$ 34,947</u></u>