

TARRANT COUNTY

TARRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - ROOM 506
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S. RENEE TIDWELL, CPA
COUNTY AUDITOR
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KIM BUCHANAN, CPA
FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY AUDITOR
kmbuchanan@tarrantcounty.com

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Thomas Wilder, District Clerk
The Honorable District Judges
The Honorable Commissioners Court
Tarrant County, Texas

RE: Auditor's Report – District Clerk, FY2021 Review of Registry of the Court Accounts

SUMMARY

As required by Local Government Code 117.123, the Auditor's Office performed an audit of the registry funds held by the District Clerk as of September 30, 2021. The objective of our audit was to determine whether the registry account balances shown on the attached financial statements were materially correct. We also determined whether collateral held jointly by the District Clerk and the depository was adequate. In our opinion, the District Clerk's registry account balances shown on the attached financial statements were presented fairly, in all material respects. We also found that the value of collateral held by the clerk and the depository exceeded the amounts required by the contract.

BACKGROUND

The registry accounts are funds deposited and held for a third party per court order or statute. The funds held in the registry do not belong to Tarrant County. Rather, the District Clerk holds the funds in a fiduciary capacity to satisfy a legal pleading or to await the outcome of a legal proceeding. The registry accounts are recorded into the Trust Information Management System (TIMS) application, the District Clerk's case management system. The clerk is responsible for the deposits, disbursements, and the investment of the registry funds. Currently, the registry accounts are held at JP Morgan Chase.

In accordance with Local Government Code Section 117.121, *Disbursements of Funds*, the Auditor's Office reviews and countersigns disbursements made from the District Clerk's Registry Accounts. The code states, "All checks or drafts issued for the disbursement of the registry fund must be submitted to the county auditor for the auditor's countersignature before delivery or payment. The county auditor may countersign the check


only on written evidence of the order of the judge of the court in which the funds have been deposited, authorizing the disbursement of the funds."

During fiscal year 2021, the District Clerk's Office presented 1,971 checks totaling \$9,207,930.97 for the auditor's review and approval. The auditor approved and countersigned checks totaling \$9,187,915.64. Of the 1,971 checks presented to the Auditor's Office, seven checks totaling \$20,015.33 related to four cases were rejected due to an incorrect amount or payee. The District Clerk's Office voided and reissued all seven checks.

CLOSING REMARKS

We appreciate the cooperation of the District Clerk's staff during our audit. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



S. Renee Tidwell, CPA
County Auditor

Attachments: Statement of Assets and Liabilities
Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities
Management's response

Distribution: Doug Gowin, Operations Manager
Andrea Ziton, Registry Fund Manager

Audit Team: Matt Jones, Audit Manager
Maki Brown, Senior Internal Auditor

**TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS
DISTRICT CLERK
REGISTRY OF THE COURT ACCOUNTS**

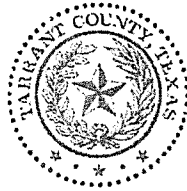
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021

Assets	
Cash (deposits)	\$ 2,575,817
Certificates of deposits, including accrued interest	<u>25,282,906</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 27,858,723</u>
 Liabilities	
Due to beneficiaries	<u>\$ 27,858,723</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 27,858,723</u>

**TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS
DISTRICT CLERK
REGISTRY OF THE COURT ACCOUNTS**

Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021

	Uninvested	Invested	Total
Beginning Balance - September 30, 2020	\$ 1,629,419	\$ 21,466,399	\$ 23,095,817
Deposits	13,722,657		13,722,657
Interest earned		143,658	143,658
Transfer from Invested to Uninvested	8,914,326	(8,914,326)	-
Transfer from Uninvested to Invested	(12,587,175)	12,587,175	-
Disbursements - Registry Accounts	(9,103,411)		(9,103,411)
Ending Balance - September 30, 2021	\$ 2,575,817	\$ 25,282,906	\$ 27,858,723



TARRANT COUNTY

THOMAS A. WILDER
DISTRICT CLERK

March 15, 2022

Renee Tidwell
County Auditor
100 E. Weatherford St.
Fort Worth, TX 76196

HAND DELIVERED

RE: Auditor's Report - District Clerk, Review of Registry of the Court Accounts

Dear Ms. Tidwell:

I would like to express my appreciation for your prompt and thorough review of the Registry of the Court Accounts for FY2021. I agree with your findings, and I am pleased that the review was conducted with minimal impact on my staff.

Your audit team, working together with my Accounting staff is to be commended for a job well done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas A. Wilder". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Thomas" written in a cursive script and the last name "Wilder" in a more upright, blocky cursive style.

Thomas A. Wilder
Tarrant County District Clerk