

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

District Court 23-0-01
Berks County, Pennsylvania
For the Period
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020

January 2022



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018
Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General
Twitter: @PAAuditorGen
www.PaAuditor.gov**

**TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL**

The Honorable C. Daniel Hassell
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue
Harrisburg, PA 17128

We have conducted a compliance audit of the District Court 23-0-01, Berks County, Pennsylvania (District Court), for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020 pursuant to the requirements of Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 401(c).

The objective of the audit was to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported and promptly remitted and to provide a report to the Department of Revenue to allow the Department of Revenue to state and settle the district court's account. Our audit was limited to areas related to the objective identified above and was not conducted, nor was it required to be, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

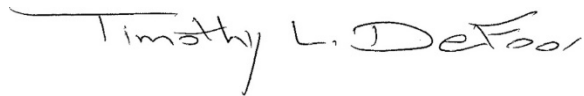
The district court is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance of compliance with state laws and regulations applicable to the collection of moneys on behalf of the Commonwealth, including whether they have been correctly assessed, reported and promptly remitted. The district court is also responsible for complying with those laws and regulations. It is our responsibility to perform procedures to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objective. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions.

Based on our audit procedures, we conclude that, for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020, the district court, in all significant respects, complied with state laws and regulations applicable to the collection of moneys on behalf of the Commonwealth, including whether they have been correctly assessed, reported, and promptly remitted.

This report includes a summary of the district court's receipts and disbursements of funds collected on behalf of the Commonwealth (summary). We obtained data representing the district court's receipts and disbursements from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, which obtains data from each of the Commonwealth's district courts, and used the data to create the summary in the format required by the Department of Revenue. We also evaluated the accuracy of the data as part of our audit to conclude on the district court's compliance with certain state laws and regulations as described in the previous paragraph. Any adjustments that we considered necessary based on our audit work are disclosed in the *Audit Adjustments* line of the summary; however, the scope of our audit does not include the issuance of an opinion on the accuracy of the amounts reported in the summary.

The purpose of this report is to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported and promptly remitted and to provide a report to the Department of Revenue to allow the Department of Revenue to state and settle the district court's account. This report is not suitable for any other purposes.

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the district court. We appreciate the courtesy extended by the District Court 23-0-01, Berks County, to us during the course of our audit. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bureau of County Audits at 717-787-1363.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy L. DeFoor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left of the first letter.

Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General
January 10, 2022

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background.....	1
Summary Of Receipts And Disbursements	2
Report Distribution	3

DISTRICT COURT 23-0-01
BERKS COUNTY
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

The Department of Auditor General is mandated by Article IV, Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code* (Act of April 9, 1929, P.L.343, No. 176), to audit the accounts of each district court to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported and promptly remitted.

The Berks County Central Arraignment Court, District Court 23-0-01, serves as an after-hours emergency duty court to ensure the continual availability of an issuing authority in the Twenty-third Judicial District. The Summary of Receipts and Disbursements provides a summary of receipts collected by District Court 23-0-01 on behalf of the Berks County district courts, the Berks County Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and other participating parties, and subsequent disbursements of collected receipts to these entities as appropriate.

Receipts were recognized when received and disbursements were recognized when paid. Receipts consist of fines, costs, fees and surcharges collected by District Court 23-0-01 on behalf of the Berks County district courts, the Berks County Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and other participating parties. The amounts of receipts assessed and collected are based on Pennsylvania laws and regulations. Disbursements consist of checks to the Berks County district courts, the Berks County Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and other participating parties.

The entities receiving disbursements from District Court 23-0-01 subsequently remit money due to the Commonwealth, as determined by Pennsylvania laws and regulations, to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

This is a central arraignment court where all of the “on call” Magisterial District Judges in Berks County perform their duties in the evenings and on weekends. Therefore, various Magisterial District Judges served at District Court 23-0-01 for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020.

DISTRICT COURT 23-0-01
 BERKS COUNTY
 SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
 FOR THE PERIOD
 JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Receipts: \$ 520,422.44

Disbursements:

Berks County Clerk of Court of Common Pleas	(27,135.00)
Berks County Treasurer, Reading	(555.00)
Magisterial District Court 23-1-01	(22,954.85)
Magisterial District Court 23-1-02	(42,852.44)
Magisterial District Court 23-1-03	(44,410.53)
Magisterial District Court 23-1-05	(50,651.96)
Magisterial District Court 23-1-06	(47,911.56)
Magisterial District Court 23-2-01	(40,952.31)
Magisterial District Court 23-2-02	(50,830.48)
Magisterial District Court 23-2-03	(36,782.11)
Magisterial District Court 23-2-04	(27,138.31)
Magisterial District Court 23-3-01	(10,835.00)
Magisterial District Court 23-3-02	(7,097.47)
Magisterial District Court 23-3-03	(9,818.90)
Magisterial District Court 23-3-04	(4,551.13)
Magisterial District Court 23-3-05	(22,758.54)
Magisterial District Court 23-3-06	(16,185.87)
Magisterial District Court 23-3-07	(4,646.64)
Magisterial District Court 23-3-09	(51,787.59)
Magisterial District Court 02-2-03	(500.00)
Miscellaneous	(75.00)

Total Disbursements \$ (520,430.69)

Excess Receipts over Disbursements \$ (8.25)

DISTRICT COURT 23-0-01
BERKS COUNTY
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

This report was initially distributed to:

The Honorable C. Daniel Hassell
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

The Honorable H. Geoffrey Moulton, Jr.
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

Berks County Central Court
District Court 23-0-01

The Honorable Christian Y. Leinbach
Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Sandy Graffius
Controller

Mr. Stephen A. Weber
District Court Administrator

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.PaAuditor.gov. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@PaAuditor.gov.