



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS (SAC)

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

February 14, 2008

Ms. Diane F. Boyer-Vine
Legislative Counsel
State of California
State Capitol, Suite 3021
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Gregory P. Schmidt
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 400
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. E. Dotson Wilson
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3196
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Report to the Legislature on Electronic Recording Equipment Purchased and
Leased by the Superior Courts, Required by Government Code Section 69958

Dear Ms. Boyer-Vine, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Wilson:

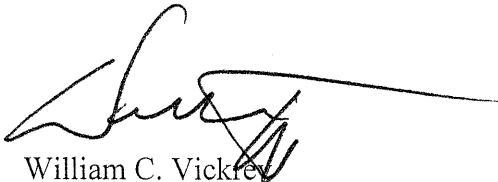
Attached is the Judicial Council report on the purchase and lease of recording equipment by superior courts for the period July 1 through December 31, 2007, as required under Government Code section 69958 (Stats. 2004, ch. 227).

February 14, 2008

Page 2

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Stephen Nash, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Finance Division, at 415-865-7584 or Christine Patton, Regional Administrative Director, AOC Bay Area/Northern Coastal Region, at 415-865-4099.

Sincerely,



William C. Vickrey
Administrative Director of the Courts

WCV/VM

Attachment

cc: Members of the Judicial Council

Ronald G. Overholt, AOC Chief Deputy Director

Matt Osterli, Fiscal Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

Keely Martin Bosler, Consultant, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review

Janus Norman, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Allan Cooper, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office

Sheila Calabro, Regional Administrative Director, AOC Southern Region

Jody Patel, Regional Administrative Director, AOC Northern/Central Region

Christine Patton, Regional Administrative Director, AOC Bay Area/Northern Coastal
Region

Curtis L. Child, Director, AOC Office of Governmental Affairs

Stephen Nash, Director, AOC Finance Division

Donna S. Hershkowitz, Assistant Director, AOC Office of Governmental Affairs

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Report on Purchase and Lease of Electronic Recording Equipment by Superior Courts (July 1–December 31, 2007)

Background

Government Code section 69957 provides that when an official reporter or official reporter pro tempore is unavailable, approved recording equipment and recording monitors may be used during specific types of proceedings. The section further specifies that this equipment “shall only be purchased for use as provided by this section. A court shall not expend funds for electronic recording technology or equipment to make an unofficial record of an action or proceeding or to use that technology or equipment to make the official record of an action or proceeding in circumstances not authorized by this section.”

Government Code section 69958 includes the following related reporting requirements:

Each superior court shall report to the Judicial Council on or before October 1, 2004, and semiannually thereafter, and the Judicial Council shall report to the Legislature on or before December 31, 2004, and semiannually thereafter, regarding all purchases and leases of electronic recording equipment that will be used to record superior court proceedings, specifying all of the following:

- (a) The Superior Court in which the equipment will be used.
- (b) The types of trial court proceedings in which the equipment will be used.
- (c) The cost of purchasing, leasing, or upgrading the equipment.
- (d) The type of equipment purchased or leased.

Purchases and Leases of Recording Equipment

Administrative Office of the Courts staff recently surveyed all 58 superior courts to obtain the information required by Government Code section 69958 for the period July 1 through December 31, 2007. During this period, six courts indicated that they had purchased or leased electronic recording equipment or related items for use in court proceedings.

The Superior Court of Contra Costa County purchased an external digital clock for \$442. The equipment will be used with the court’s existing electronic recording equipment in traffic and small claims cases to create the official record. This was not a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment.

The Superior Court of Kern County purchased licenses for Encompass software from VIQ Solutions to be used in two courtrooms for internal note-taking in traffic, misdemeanor, and small claims cases. The software licenses are a replacement or upgrade and cost \$4,738.

The Superior Court of San Bernardino County purchased two FTR Reporter Deck 2 digital recording machines with external clock displays and annual service/support agreements for \$10,105. This equipment will be used to create an official record in trials of traffic matters. This was not a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment.

The Superior Court of Santa Barbara County purchased an FTR reporter 2.2, model PSP-00199-GR-DE, Log Notes, a DMX8 USB mixer, a CVC playback box, a TOA line module, and an FTR headset to replace or upgrade existing equipment. The equipment, which cost \$5,564, will be used for internal note-taking and to create a record in limited civil, small claims, and misdemeanor cases.

The Superior Court of Siskiyou County purchased an FTR Gold Plus digital sound system that will be used for internal note-taking and creating an official record in infraction, misdemeanor, and small claims cases. The equipment cost \$7,354 and was an upgrade or replacement of existing equipment.

The Superior Court of Stanislaus County purchased PC-based audio cards and mixers using Liberty Player software that connects to the court's public announcement system. The purchase, in the amount of \$48,406, was for sufficient equipment and licensing for nine departments, including installation and training. The equipment will be used for misdemeanor and limited civil cases where a reporter is not available. This was a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment.

The total amount spent by all superior courts on the purchase or lease of electronic recording equipment during this reporting period was \$76,609.