



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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August 28, 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 on Purchase and Lease of Electronic Recording Equipment by Superior Courts
(January 1–June 30, 2008), Required by Government Code Section 69958

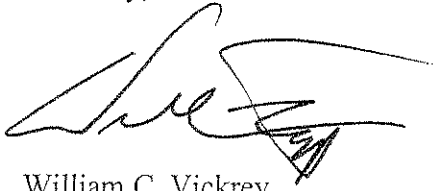
Dear Ms. Boyer-Vine, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Wilson:

Attached is the Judicial Council report on the purchase and lease of recording equipment by superior courts for the period January 1 through June 30, 2008, as required under Government Code section 69958 (Stats. 2004, ch. 227).

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

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

Matt Osterli, Fiscal Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

Joe Stephenshaw, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Allen 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

Stephen Nash, Director, AOC Finance Division

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Report on Purchase and Lease of Electronic Recording Equipment by Superior Courts (January 1–June 30, 2008)

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 January 1 through June 30, 2008. During this period, 12 courts indicated that they had purchased or leased electronic recording equipment or related items for use in court proceedings.

The Superior Court of Alameda County purchased a Marantz PMD201 tape recorder to be used to create a record in traffic proceedings. The equipment was not an upgrade or replacement of existing equipment and cost \$298.

The Superior Court of Contra Costa County bought an external clock display and 11 desktop computers and monitors at a total cost of \$12,162. The equipment will be used to create an official record in traffic, small claims, and family law cases (under Gov. Code, § 70141.11). The equipment was a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment.

The Superior Court of Fresno County purchased and had installed FTR Gold Digital Recording Software, FTR Log Notes software, and a DMX-8 Sound Mixer for a total of

\$6,133. The equipment will be used to record proceedings in misdemeanor, small claims, and traffic infraction cases. This was a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment and software.

The Superior Court of Kern County purchased six portable CD recorders, exterior hard drives, a Dell Poweredge Server 2950, Firepod Mixer, software support and maintenance, and five software licenses and one year of maintenance. The only item that was a replacement or an upgrade was the software support and maintenance. The equipment will be used for internal note taking on traffic, misdemeanor, and limited civil proceedings. The total cost of the items was \$39,396.

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County purchased 80 FTR Reporter Deck 2 digital recorders for a total of \$222,000. The equipment replaces obsolete analog machines for use in limited jurisdiction civil cases and traffic cases heard by temporary judges and in three misdemeanor arraignment courts and four traffic courts where the equipment is operated by electronic recording monitors.

The Superior Court of Monterey County purchased an amplifier, mixer, and processor combination to be used to record misdemeanor proceedings in the courtroom created for their new judge position. The equipment is not a replacement or upgrade and cost \$9,589.

The Superior Court of Nevada County purchased a Veri-Scribe II 4-channel recorder, including maintenance, installation, and training; a Shure PG48 microphone three-pack; a Shure PG48 microphone; microphone cables; and an M-Audio Fast Track Ultra USB 2.0 Audio Interface for a total of \$4,275. This equipment will be used to create a record in misdemeanor cases when a court reporter is not available. This was not a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment or software.

The Superior Court of San Bernardino County purchased one FTR Reporter Deck 2 digital recorder with external clock display and annual service agreement. The equipment was not a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment. The cost of the equipment was \$25,180, and it will be used in traffic trials to create a record.

The Superior Court of Santa Barbara County purchased the following and paid for installation: two FTR Reporter 2.2 Software FPP; three FTR Reporter 2.2 software five-pack FPP; 14 TOA Modules for 14 courtrooms; and 17 of each of the following: FTR DMX-8 channel USB mixer, FTR Log Notes software, FTR headsets, USB cables, playback switch, hardware, and connectors. The equipment, which cost a total of \$99,821, will be used to record and play back, and to make duplicates on CD-ROM in misdemeanor, small claims, and limited civil cases. The purchase replaced existing recording equipment and software in all Santa Barbara County courts.

The Superior Court of Santa Clara County purchased a Liberty 4-Channel Recorder Set to prepare an official record for misdemeanor arraignments and pretrials and two 4-channel PC encoder cards and six custom cables to prepare the official record and for

judicial notes in small claims and traffic cases. The total equipment cost was \$5,108. The encoder cards and cables were an upgrade or replacement of existing equipment while the recorder set was not.

The Superior Court of Santa Cruz County spent \$2,644 to purchase a FTR Reporter 3.3 and FTR/Delta PC Audio Card, which will be used to create a record of misdemeanor cases. The equipment was an upgrade or replacement of existing equipment.

The Superior Court of Tehama County purchased a support services package including Liberty 4-channel version Court Recorder Software and Liberty 4-channel recorder-upgrade, product installation, and training that will be used to record proceedings in misdemeanor, small claims, and limited civil cases. The package cost \$2,013 and was an upgrade or replacement of existing equipment and software.

The total amount spent by all superior courts on the purchase or lease of electronic recording equipment during this reporting period was \$428,619.