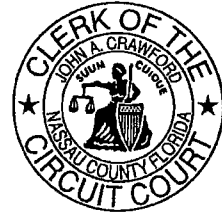




John A. Crawford
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Nassau County



February 9, 2006

Dennis Gay
Internal Auditor
Nassau County Clerk of Court/Comptroller
76347 Veterans Way
Yulee, FL 32097

Re: Internal Audit of Bonds/Forfeitures

Dear Mr. Gay:

Section 903.26, Florida Statutes, prescribes requirements for the Clerk of the Circuit Court related to forfeiture of bonds. Over the past several months, I have requested Elaine Coats, Director of the Courts division of the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office, to review cases involving bonds to assure that all bonds and all forfeitures have been properly processed. Her initial review indicates possible instances where forfeitures were not processed in accordance with law.

Failure to carry out the requirements of Section 903.26, Florida Statutes, appear to have resulted in bond forfeitures owed approaching \$160,000 not being collected. It appears that only one case occurred during 2005. The remaining cases occurred under the previous Clerk's administration. The initial review only accounts for the period from the year 2000 to current. I have instructed court staff to immediately file all outstanding forfeiture notices to collect all monies owed to the citizens of Florida.

Please immediately conduct a full audit of bonds/forfeitures, providing a full accounting for money collected, money still owed, and accounting for the internal controls needed to assure that there will be compliance with the law henceforth. I am notifying by copy of this letter the offices of the State Attorney, the Chief Administrative Judge of Nassau County, and Governor Bush. Thank you in advance for expediting a thorough audit which will assure trust to the public we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. Crawford".

John A. Crawford

Cc: The Honorable Jeb Bush, Governor
The Honorable Robert M. Foster, Circuit Judge
The Honorable Harry Shorstein, State Attorney