

July 6, 2020

Honorable Carl B. Ingram
Chief Justice of the High Court
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Majuro, MH 96960

Dear Chief Justice Ingram:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Marshall Islands Judiciary Fund (the Judiciary Fund) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2019 (on which we have issued our report dated July 6, 2020), in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, we considered the Judiciary's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Judiciary's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Judiciary's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting. However, in connection with our audit, we identified, and included in the attached Appendix I, deficiencies related to the Judiciary's internal control over financial reporting and other matters as of September 30, 2019 that we wish to bring to your attention.

The definition of a deficiency is also set forth in the attached Appendix I.

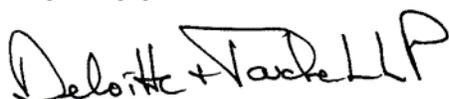
A description of the responsibility of management for establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting and of the objectives of and inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, is set forth in the attached Appendix II and should be read in conjunction with this report.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Chief Justice of the High Court, management, others within the organization, and the Office of the Auditor-General and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We will be pleased to discuss the attached comments with you and, if desired, to assist you in implementing any of the suggestions.

We wish to thank the staff and management of the Judiciary for their cooperation and assistance during the course of this engagement.

Very truly yours,



SECTION I - DEFICIENCIES

We identified, and have included below, deficiencies involving the Judiciary's internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2019, that we wish to bring to your attention:

(1) Revenue Recognition

During the year ended September 30, 2019, we noted inconsistencies related to revenue recognition whereby collections of \$5,350 pertaining to deposits for unearned court fees were recorded as revenues. Such was subsequently adjusted during the audit process. We recommend that the Judiciary implement internal control procedures requiring that all revenues be accurately supported, identified, and recorded in the correct accounting period.

(2) Revenue Classifications

During the year ended September 30, 2019, we noted: (1) \$4,500 of Legal Aid Fund exemption fees recorded as deposits to the Operations bank account and as revenues in the Operations Fund; and (2) \$23,380 of court fees for corporate search services recorded as other income. Such was subsequently adjusted during the audit process. We recommend that the Judiciary implement internal control procedures requiring that revenues be accurately supported, identified, and recorded in the correct general ledger account.

(3) Bank Transfers

During the year ended September 30, 2019, bank transfers of \$3,850 were incorrectly recorded as revenues and expenditures. Such was subsequently adjusted during the audit process. We recommend that the Judiciary monitor transfers between bank accounts and require adjustment and close out of such at year end as part of the financial reporting closing process.

SECTION II - OTHER MATTERS

Our observations concerning other matters related to operations, compliance with laws and regulations, and best practices involving internal control over financial reporting that we wish to bring to your attention at this time are as follows:

(1) Provision for Legal Assistance

The Judiciary records professional fee expenditures for legal aid services performed by court-appointed attorneys upon receipt of billing. Accordingly, professional fee expenditures that should have been recorded in one accounting period are improperly recognized (\$8,670 recorded in 2020 but pertains to 2019 upon receipt of billing) and unbilled services are not recorded. We recommend that the Judiciary implement procedures to facilitate timely receipt of billing from court-appointed attorneys and create internal records for hours spent by attorneys per legal aid case.

SECTION III - DEFINITIONS

The definition of a deficiency is as follows:

A *deficiency* in internal control over financial reporting exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A deficiency in design exists when (a) a control necessary to meet the control objective is missing or (b) an existing control is not properly designed so that, even if the control operates as designed, the control objective would not be met. A deficiency in operation exists when (a) a properly designed control does not operate as designed, or (b) the person performing the control does not possess the necessary authority or competence to perform the control effectively.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR, AND THE OBJECTIVES AND LIMITATIONS OF, INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

The following comments concerning management's responsibility for internal control over financial reporting and the objectives and inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting are adapted from auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management's Responsibility

The Judiciary's management is responsible for the overall accuracy of the financial statements and their conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. In this regard, management is also responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting.

Objectives of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Internal control over financial reporting is a process affected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel and designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of the entity's objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Internal control over the safeguarding of assets against unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition may include controls related to financial reporting and operations objectives. Generally, controls that are relevant to an audit of financial statements are those that pertain to the entity's objective of reliable financial reporting (i.e., the preparation of reliable financial statements that are fairly presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles).

Inherent Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.