



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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Chief Justice of California
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Administrative Director of the Courts

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August 25, 2006

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 (Stats. 2004, ch. 227)

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

Attached is the Judicial Council report on purchase and lease of recording equipment by superior courts for the period of January 1 through June 30, 2006, as required under Statutes 2004, chapter 227.

August 25, 2006

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If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Christine M. Hansen, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Finance Division, at 415-865-7951 or Christine Patton, Regional Administrative Director, AOC Bay Area/Northern Coastal Region, at 415-865-7735.

Sincerely,



William C. Vickrey
Administrative Director of the Courts

WCV/VM

Enclosure

cc: Members of the Judicial Council

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

Christine M. Hansen, Director, AOC Finance Division

Kathleen P. Howard, Director, AOC Office of Governmental Affairs

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Report on Purchase and Lease of Electronic Recording Equipment by Superior Courts (January 1–June 30, 2006)

Background

Senate Bill 1102 (Stats. 2004, ch. 227) amended Government Code section 69957. This code section 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 amendment provides 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.”

SB 1102 also added Government Code section 69958:

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, 2006. During this period, nine courts responded, as indicated below, that they had purchased or leased electronic recording equipment or related items for use in court proceedings.

- The Superior Court of Butte County purchased CourtSmart software, a Dell laptop, a mixer, and microphones for creating a record in limited civil, misdemeanor, traffic, and small claims cases and for administrative meetings. The court purchased the equipment for \$12,645. The equipment was a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment.
- The Superior Court of Fresno County purchased FTR Gold digital recording software, FTR LogNotes software, and a DMX8 sound mixer to create a record of proceedings in limited civil, small claims, and traffic cases. This equipment cost \$13,452 and was not a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment.

- The Superior Court of Imperial County purchased a USB mixer to create a record in misdemeanor cases. This purchase, in the amount of \$1,025, was an upgrade or replacement of existing equipment.
- The Superior Court of San Diego County purchased Lanier LCR-5 equipment to create a record of proceedings and trials and motions in misdemeanor and limited civil actions. This equipment was not a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment and cost \$3,927.
- The Superior Court of San Joaquin County purchased a Liberty four-channel recorder, an MX6/4 mixer, a USB audio device interface, a cable, and a headset to record misdemeanor proceedings. This equipment cost \$4,581 and was not a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment.
- The Superior Court of Santa Clara County purchased 19 sets of Liberty four-channel recorders with Liberty player software for internal note taking for traffic and small claims calendars and to create the official record for misdemeanor arraignment and misdemeanor pretrial calendars. The equipment was a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment and cost \$74,724.
- The Superior Court of Solano County purchased a Marantz CDR420 professional MPC/CD Recorder Workstation to create a record in traffic cases. This equipment, which cost \$1,309, was a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment.
- The Superior Court of Ventura County purchased FTR Reporter 2.2, FTR LogNotes, a Delta encoder card, an FTR display clock, an FTR headset, a CVC playback switch, an FTR MX5 mixer (eight channel), connectors, and hardware to create a record of events for limited civil cases, traffic and criminal infraction and misdemeanor cases, and small claims cases. This is not an upgrade or replacement of existing equipment but does replicate the equipment in other courtrooms. The cost of the equipment was \$45,584.
- The Superior Court of Yolo County purchased FTR equipment including an audio mixer, Reporter 2.2 FPP, a Digigram VX 442 soundcard, a four-channel portable recorder, Reporter 2.2 FPP upgrades, and LogNotes upgrades. The equipment, which replaces or upgrades existing equipment, will be used in misdemeanor proceedings to create a record. The equipment cost \$12,435.

The total amount spent by all superior courts on the purchase or lease of electronic recording equipment during this reporting period was \$169,682.