



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

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

September 6, 2007

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 purchase and lease of recording equipment by superior courts for the period January 1 through June 30, 2007, as required under Government Code section 69958 (Stats. 2004, ch. 227).

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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

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

Sheila Calabro, Regional Administrative Director, AOC Southern Regional Office

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

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

Stephen Nash, Director, AOC Finance Division

Donna Hershkowitz, Assistant 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, 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 was amended by Senate Bill 1102 (Stats. 2004, ch. 227) to provide 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 to read as follows:

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, 2007. During this period, eight 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 Alameda County purchased a Marantz Pro PMD201 tape recorder as part of a pilot program to record traffic proceedings. The equipment cost \$988 and was not a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment.
- The Superior Court of Contra Costa County purchased a crash cart mobile system that will be used in various traffic and family law courtrooms (under Government Code section 70141.11) to create the official record. This system was not a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment and cost \$7,059.

- The Superior Court of Kern County purchased digital recording software and licenses and amplifiers to record proceedings in traffic, limited civil, and misdemeanor cases. The court purchased the equipment for \$35,203. This equipment was used to replace or upgrade existing equipment.
- The Superior Court of Orange County purchased four VIP FTR Reporter 2.2, four VIP FTR Reporter Log Notes Wordlinks, eight notebook computers, eight Antx DMX-8 USB Mixer 8 Mics, an external clock display, microphone stands, luggage cases, and headsets, as well as installation, training, and setup. This replacement equipment will be used in misdemeanor proceedings to create an official record. The cost of the equipment was \$64,606.
- The Superior Court of San Joaquin County purchased five Liberty 4-channel recorders, MX6/4 mixers, headsets, interfaces and cables, and installation and training for a cost of \$21,912. The equipment, which is not a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment, will be used to record misdemeanor violation of probation hearings.
- The Superior Court of Shasta County purchased two Liberty 4-channel recorders, a player, and an annotator for two courtrooms, as well as installation and training. The equipment will be used in misdemeanor cases only, for jury and court trials as well as evidentiary hearings and arraignments. This equipment was a replacement of existing equipment and cost \$8,936.
- The Superior Court of Siskiyou County purchased an FTR Gold plus digital sound system to use for internal note-taking and creating a record in infraction, misdemeanor, and small claims cases. The equipment was a replacement or upgrade of existing equipment and cost \$7,087.
- The Superior Court of Stanislaus County purchased a Liberty digital recorder, mixer, and recorder card. This equipment will be used to create a record for misdemeanor and infraction cases. This equipment, which cost \$48,406, was not 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 \$194,197.