New Jersey State Legislature
Office of Legislative Services
Office of the State Auditor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JUDICIARY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
JUDICIARY BAIL FUND
July 1, 2013 to May 31, 2016

We found the financial transactions included in our testing were related to the Judiciary Bail Fund, were reasonable, and were recorded properly in the accounting systems. We also found that procedures for the collection of forfeited bail from sureties were adequate. In addition, logical access controls for the CABS and Promis/Gavel were adequate. In making these determinations, we noted a reportable condition meriting management's attention. In addition, we noted an observation regarding negotiated bail.

AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS

- AOC and county vicinage users have excessive access to the Central Automated Bail System (CABS) and to the Promis/Gavel system. User access between these two systems should be segregated so that users do not have the ability to post and disburse funds, change address tables, forfeit or transfer bail, and update information in both systems. We tested all 248 users who had access to both the CABS and Promis/Gavel and found 30 users who had read and write access to both systems. We also tested all 796 CABS users and found 12 users who were not in compliance with CABS user access requirements because they were assigned a combination of restricted user access codes. Management has taken corrective action to remove or revise access for most cases after they were brought to their attention.

- The AOC's Remittitur Guidelines state that the denial of any remission is entirely appropriate if the defendant remains a fugitive when the remission motion is made. Of the 35 negotiated bail cases we tested, six were negotiated by County Counsels while the defendant was still a fugitive. The percentage collected on these six forfeitures averaged 34 percent of the bond amount and was as low as 5 percent.

AUDITEE RESPONSE

The department generally concurs with our finding and recommendation.

For the complete audit report or to print this Executive Summary, click here.