

**Office of the State Auditor
Investigative Division Audit Exceptions
FISCAL YEAR 2000**



State of Mississippi

PHIL BRYANT
STATE AUDITOR

Web Version

July 2000

Office of the State Auditor

Investigative Division

An account of misappropriated or misspent public funds
and the actions taken by the Investigative Division of the
Office of the State Auditor for their recovery
and return to the State's public treasuries for Fiscal Year 2000.

**Investigative Division Audit Exceptions
FISCAL YEAR 2000**

**PHIL BRYANT
STATE AUDITOR**

**Jesse M. Bingham, Director
Investigative Division**

Web Version



OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
PHIL BRYANT
AUDITOR

July 31, 2000

Dear Citizens:

I am pleased to report to you concerning the specific exceptions taken by the Investigative Division during Fiscal Year 2000.

An audit "*exception*" indicates that a violation of the law has resulted in public funds being misappropriated or spent incorrectly. The term also means that money must be repaid.

Accordingly, this report includes the formal demands for repayment made by the State Auditor and the cases this office has referred to the Attorney General for litigation. The report also discusses the cases that were closed by settlement, collection, litigation or dismissal.

The Investigative Division was responsible for issuing 18 written demands for \$1,232,958.36. The Division recovered misspent or misappropriated funds totaling \$677,342.92. We anticipate recovering the remainder during the next fiscal year.

We pledge to continue to perform our jobs with integrity, honesty and a commitment to excellence. We will strive to protect the public's trust through aggressive investigations of alleged wrongdoing. We believe the taxpayers of Mississippi deserve no less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Bryant".

PHIL BRYANT
State Auditor

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Web Version

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exceptions taken by the Department of Investigations for Fiscal Year 2000

Exceptions Against County Officials	1
Exceptions Against State Agency Officials	11
Exceptions Against School District Officials	12
Exceptions Against Municipal Officials	13

State Auditor's Cases Closed

Office of the Attorney General

Exceptions Against County Officials	17
Exceptions Against School District Officials	20
Exceptions Against Municipal Officials	21

Index by County	24
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**INVESTIGATIVE AUDIT EXCEPTIONS
TAKEN BY THE
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FISCAL YEAR 2000**

Web Version

**INVESTIGATIVE AUDIT
EXCEPTIONS**

County Officials

ALCORN COUNTY

Corinth/Alcorn Co. Airport Manager Richard Carter **\$3,504.91**
Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on October 12, 1999, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on November 12, 1999.

Supervisor District 2 Danny Crotts **\$517.57**
Work on Private Property

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

BENTON COUNTY

Sheriff's Department Dispatcher Ada Tucker **\$3,448.05**
Embezzlement

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

CLAY COUNTY

Circuit Clerk Bobbie Ann C. Davis **\$9,826.99**
Unauthorized Use of Public Funds

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the

State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

COPIAH COUNTY

Deputy Tax Collector Theresa Gray **\$3,162.66**
Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on January 27, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on February 28, 2000. Refer to page 27 for additional activity.

GEORGE COUNTY

Tax Collector Towana A. Wright **\$1,200.00**
Loss of Public Funds

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

ITAWAMBA COUNTY

Deputy Tax Collector Stephanie Taylor Beam **\$326,375.56**
Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on April 18, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on May 18, 2000. Refer to page 27 for additional activity.

Supervisor District 2 J. T. Farris **\$8,216.80**
Conversion of Public Property to Personal Use

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on April 3, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on May 3, 2000.

ITAWAMBA COUNTY, continued

Mantachie Natural Gas District **\$31,309.57**
Unauthorized Expenditure of Public Fund

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

JACKSON COUNTY

Chancery Clerk William Lynn Presley **\$186,851.15**
Exceeded Statutory Fee Cap

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on May 25, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on June 30, 2000.

Youth Court Restitution Clerk Tonja Hogan **\$455.83**
Missing Public Funds

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

Youth Court Receptionist Rebecca Scott **\$455.83**
Missing Public Funds

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on February 3, 2000. On February 14, 2000, payment in full was made by bonding company and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

Supervisor District 3 Johnny O’Connell **\$692.08**
Unauthorized Use of Public Funds

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account.

Justice Court Clerk Cassandra Price **\$417,842.60**
Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on September 27, 1999, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on October 27, 1999. Refer to page 29 for additional activity.

JONES COUNTY

Constable Mike McRaney **\$3,789.95**
Misuse of Public Funds

Disposition: On December 30, 1999, payment of \$1,000.00 was received and settled to the appropriate fund directly.

Constable Milton Smith **\$3,929.09**
Misuse of Public Funds

Disposition: On December 30, 1999, payment of \$1,000.00 was received and settled to the appropriate fund directly.

Constable Charles Williams **\$3,440.38**
Misuse of Public Funds

Disposition: On December 30, 1999, payment of \$1,000.00 was received and settled to the appropriate fund directly.

KEMPER COUNTY

Sheriff Samuel Tisdale **\$139.59**
Improper Use of Public Equipment

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Purchase Clerk Paulette Tullos **\$3,159.31**
Embezzlement

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

LEFLORE COUNTY

Deputy Tax Collector Rebecca Browning **\$581.34**
Fraud

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund directly.

LINCOLN COUNTY

New Site Vol. Fire Dept. Treasurer Andrea Grammar **\$32,242.05**
Embezzlement; Uttering Forgeries

Disposition: Subject pled guilty to embezzlement and two (2) counts of uttering forgeries; was sentenced to seven (7) years on each count to run currently, suspended with five (5) years probation, and a term at a restitution center; and, to pay restitution, costs and fines. As of June 13, 2000, partial payment of \$6,283.95 has been received and settled to the appropriate fund directly.

Deputy Tax Collector Carla Chris Haley **\$36,071.80**
Embezzlement

Disposition: On May 12, 2000, partial payment of \$18,311.50 was received and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account. Subject pled guilty to embezzlement and false entries and was sentenced to eight (8) years, with five (5) years suspended for embezzlement and sentenced to eight (8) years, with five (5) years suspended for false entries, to run currently, and to pay restitution, costs and fines.

Deputy Tax Collector Vicky McCullough **\$1,648.54**
Fraud

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund directly.

Deputy Tax Collector Stacy Montgomery **\$17,623.84**
Embezzlement

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account. Subject pled guilty to embezzlement and was sentenced to seven (7) years, with five (5) years suspended, and to pay restitution, costs and fines.

MONROE COUNTY

Soil & Water District Clerk Pat Owen **\$39,081.18**
Unauthorized Use of Public Funds

Disposition: On August 31, 1998, \$7,087.40 was paid and settled to the appropriate fund directly. Amount was negotiated to \$31,000.00 and was paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account.

Aberdeen/Monroe Co. Hospital Admin. Frank Harrington **\$6,752.44**
Misuse of Public Funds

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Road Manager Mike Bruce **\$710.12**
Unauthorized Use of Public Funds

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account.

PEARL RIVER COUNTY

Deputy Chancery Clerk Katrina Bogan **\$5,234.29**
Embezzlement

Disposition: On December 11, 1998, subject was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to five (5) years, suspended upon successful completion of a five (5) year probationary period, to pay restitution, costs and fines. As of April 28, 2000, partial payment of \$435.00 has been paid and settled to the appropriate fund directly.

PEARL RIVER COUNTY, cont.

Pearl River Basin Narcotics Task Force Cmdr Lee G. Holcomb **\$30,000.00**
Embezzlement

Disposition: On May 4, 1993, subject was found guilty of two (2) counts of embezzlement and sentenced to fifteen (15) years, with ten (10) years suspended, on each count, to run currently; after service of five (5) years, the remaining ten (10) years suspended, then be placed on probation for five (5) years; to pay restitution and costs. On May 1, 2000, the amount was paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account.

PONTOTOC COUNTY

Deputy Circuit Clerk Linda Kay Olsen **\$130,433.76**
Embezzlement

Disposition: On December 2, 1998, subject was indicted on embezzlement charges. As of June 13, 2000, partial payment of \$44,212.81 has been paid and settled to the appropriate fund directly.

PRENTISS COUNTY

Sheriff Jerry C. ‘Bud’ Michael **\$7,084.09**
Embezzlement; Conversation of Public Property
to Personal Use; Damages for Neglect of Duty

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on April 19, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on May 19, 2000.

SIMPSON COUNTY

D’Lo Water Park Manager Hugh Willis, Jr. **\$8,897.24**
Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on May 19, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on June 19, 2000. Refer to page 33 for additional activity.

TIPPAH COUNTY

Supervisor District 1 Jerry Janes **\$208.20**
Work on Private Property

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account.

UNION COUNTY

Chancery Clerk Larry Koon **\$172,873.19**
Embezzlement; Salary in Excess of Fee Cap

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on December 6, 1999, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on January 6, 2000. Refer to page 34 for additional activity.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Circuit Clerk Estelle Smith Pryor **\$24,544.16**
Unsettled Fees

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on November 10, 1999, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on December 10, 1999.

WAYNE COUNTY

Supervisor District 5 Floyd Holifield, Jr. **\$560.20**
Misuse of Public Funds

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

WILKINSON COUNTY

Chancery Clerk Thomas C. Tolliver, Jr. **\$17,465.53**
Fee Journal Exception 1996

Disposition: Repaid \$6,368.10 to the appropriate fund directly. On September 13, 1999, the remaining balance of \$11,097.43 was paid and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

WINSTON COUNTY

Solid Waste Department Clerk Crystal Dane Bane **\$2,530.47**
Failure to Deposit Public Funds

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on May 23, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on June 23, 2000.

Solid Waste Department Head Clerk Leanza Miller **\$5,097.48**
Failure to Deposit Public Funds

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on May 23, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on June 23, 2000.

*HINDS COUNTY
BOARD OF BARBER EXAMINERS*

Former Bookkeeper Stephanye Thomas
Embezzlement

\$2,266.00

Disposition: Paid \$410.00 and settled to the appropriate fund directly. On May 29, 1998, Ms. Thomas paid \$310.00 and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account. On August 14, 1998, Ms. Thomas plead guilty to embezzlement, was sentenced to two years probation, to pay \$1,525.00 in restitution and \$500.00 in fines to be paid over the probation period. On February 28, 2000, payment of \$1,522.00 was received and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

*HINDS COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR*

Former Governor Kirk Fordice
Misuse of Public Funds

\$865.36

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund directly.

*LAUDERDALE COUNTY
MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

Secretary Magnolia Middle School Swandra J. Stancil
Embezzlement

\$1,904.95

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on January 27, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on February 28, 2000. Refer to page 36 for additional activity.

*TUNICA COUNTY
TUNICA COUNTY SCHOOLS*

Tunica County School Board
Misuse of Public Funds

\$8,700.04

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

*YAZOO COUNTY
YAZOO CITY MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS*

Athletic Director Bennie L. Tillman
Embezzlement

\$32,190.73

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on April 3, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on May 3, 2000. Refer to page 38 for additional activity.

Athletic Department Employee Aubrey N. Brent, Jr.
Unauthorized Expenditure of Public Funds

\$391.64

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

*COAHOMA COUNTY
CITY OF CLARKSDALE*

City Clerk Venessa Washington

\$6,555.58

Embezzlement

Disposition: On December 17, 1999, restitution of \$6,106.93 was settled to the appropriate fund directly. On December 22, 1999, payment of \$448.65 for investigative costs was paid and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account.

*HANCOCK COUNTY
CITY OF WAVELAND*

Mayor John ‘Tommy’ Longo

\$21,003.76

Conversion of Public Property to Personal Use

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on May 8, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on June 8, 2000. Refer to page 39 for additional activity.

*HARRISON COUNTY
CITY OF D’IBERVILLE*

City Manager Alan J. Santa Cruz

\$2,175.74

Unauthorized Receipt of Public Funds

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account.

*HUMPHREYS COUNTY
CITY OF BELZONI*

Deputy City Clerk Shirley Ferrell

\$37,659.52

Embezzlement

Disposition: Subject plead guilty to embezzlement and on June 25, 1999, was sentenced to enter a pretrial intervention program for one (1) year; to pay full restitution, fines and court costs. On June 25, 1999, payment was made in full and settled to the appropriate fund directly.

*JACKSON COUNTY
CITY OF MOSS POINT*

Utility Clerk Arkimla Lakee Hill

\$7,307.11

Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on July 20, 1999, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on August 20, 1999. Refer to page 40 for additional activity.

Property Maintenance Supervisor Charles James, Jr.

\$3,115.67

Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on May 22, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on June 22, 2000. Refer to page 40 for additional activity.

*JONES COUNTY
CITY OF SANDERSVILLE*

Police Chief Billy de Boxel

\$1,042.50

Unauthorized Use of Public Funds

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

*TUNICA COUNTY
TOWN OF TUNICA*

Mayor Bobby E. Williams

\$6,200.00

Unauthorized Expenditure of Public Funds

Disposition: Paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account.

**CASES CLOSED
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Web Version

CLAIBORNE COUNTY**Board of Supervisors**

District 1 Albert Butler	\$4,724.66
District 2 Edward Carter, Sr.	\$43,003.75
District 3 William Moore	\$1,258.94
District 4 Joel Grigsby	\$2,742.60
District 5 Charles Johnson	\$33,132.90
Former Supervisor McCaleb Jones	\$250.74
Former Supervisor Kenneth Vaughn	\$2,331.83
Illegal Expenditures	

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on April 10, 1998, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on August 10, 1998. On May 6, 1998, Albert Butler paid \$4,724.66; on May 21, 1998, McCaleb Jones paid \$250.74; on June 15, 1998, William Moore paid an adjusted amount of \$268.80; on June 15, 1998, Kenneth Vaughn paid an adjusted amount of \$1,198.02; and, all amounts were settled to the appropriate fund through State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account. On June 17, 1999, \$43,003.75 was received from the bonding company for Edward Carter, Sr., and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account. On June 24, 1999, \$2,742.60 was received from the bonding company for Joel Grigsby and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account. On November 29, 1999, \$33,132.90 was received from the bonding company for Charles Johnson and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account. The case was closed.

COPIAH COUNTY

Deputy Tax Collector Theresa Gray **\$3,162.65**
 Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal written demand was issued on January 27, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on February 28, 2000. In April 2000, subject pled guilty and was sentenced to pay restitution, costs and fines. On April 12, 2000, payment in full was received and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account. The case was closed.

JONES COUNTY

Adult Detention Center Nurse Helen Lynette Husband **\$52,987.10**
 Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on January 19, 1999, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on February 18, 1999. On December 18, 1998, Ms. Husband was sentenced to pay restitution of \$18,000.00, court costs of \$219.00 and fines of \$500.00, in monthly installments of \$300.00 until paid in full. The amount of \$9,977.65 has been previously paid. Partial settlement of \$25,000.00 was received from bonding company on May 28, 1999, and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Exception Clearing Account. As of June 30, 2000, payments totaling \$4,150.00 has been received by the Jones County Circuit Clerk, leaving a balance of \$14,569.00. The case was closed. The case will be monitored by the Investigative Division for court-ordered restitution payments.

NOXUBEE COUNTY

Justice Court Clerk Jacqueline Outlaw Sherrod **\$7,674.22**
 Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on June 1, 1999, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on June 30, 1999. On August 23, 1999, full payment of \$7,674.22 was received from bonding company and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor’s Office Exception Clearing Account. The case was closed.

TUNICA COUNTY

Former Sheriff John J. Pickett, III

\$16,148. 90

Unaccounted for Funds

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on May 10, 1999, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on June 10, 1999. On September 30, 1999, full payment of \$16,148.90 was made by bonding company, and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Office Exception Clearing Account. The case was closed.

*LAUDERDALE COUNTY
MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

Secretary Magnolia Middle School Swandra J. Stancil
Embezzlement

\$1,904.95

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on January 27, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on February 28, 2000. In January 2000, subject pled guilty and was sentenced to four (4) years probation, to pay restitution, costs and fines. On April 14, 2000, payment of \$885.00 for restitution was made directly to entity. On April 25, 2000, of payment of \$1,115.00 for investigative costs was received and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account. The case was closed.

*ALCORN COUNTY
CITY OF CORINTH*

Deputy City Clerk Beverly J. Taylor

\$74,086.36

Unaccounted for Public Funds

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on March 1, 1996, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on April 15, 1996. Amount was negotiated to \$53,000.00. Subject found guilty on three (3) counts of embezzlement on December 10, 1997. On October 6, 1999, bonding company paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account. The case was closed.

*HANCOCK COUNTY
CITY OF WAVELAND*

Mayor John 'Tommy' Longo

\$21,003.76

Conversion of Public Property to Personal Use

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on May 8, 2000, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on Jun 8, 2000. On June 23, 2000, payment of \$21,003.76 was paid in full and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account. The case was closed.

*JACKSON COUNTY
CITY OF MOSS POINT*

Utility Clerk Arkimla Lakee Hill

\$7,307.11

Embezzlement

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on July 20, 1999, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on August 20, 1999. Subject plead guilty to one (1) count of embezzlement and was sentenced to three (3) years suspended, two (2) years probation, and to pay restitution, costs and fines. On December 6, 1999, payment in full was received from bonding company and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Exception Clearing Account. The case was closed.

*MADISON COUNTY
TOWN OF CANTON*

Police Officer Earnest S. Draine

\$2,938.20

Unaccounted for Public Funds

Disposition: Formal demand was issued on April 29, 1997, and transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General on June 11, 1997. Proof of loss forms have been filed with the bonding company. On October 12, 1999, full payment of \$2,938.20 was made by bonding company, and settled to the appropriate fund through the State Auditor's Office Exception Clearing Account. The case was closed.

INDEX BY COUNTY

INDEX BY COUNTY

Alcorn			
County Official	1	Jones	
Municipal Official	21	County Official	4, 18
		Municipal Official	14
Benton			
County Official	1	Kemper	
		County Official	5
Claiborne			
County Official	17	Lauderdale	
		School District Official	12, 20
Clay			
County Official	1	Lawrence	
		County Official	5
Coahoma			
Municipal Official	13	Leflore	
		County Official	5
Copiah			
County Official	2, 18	Lincoln	
		County Official	6
George			
County Official	2	Madison	
		Municipal Official	22
Hancock			
Municipal Official	13, 21	Monroe	
		County Official	7
Harrison			
Municipal Official	13	Montgomery	
		County Official	7
Hinds			
State Agency Official	11	Noxubee	
		County Official	18
Humphreys			
Municipal Official	14	Pearl River	
		County Official	7, 8
Itawamba			
County Official	2, 3	Pontotoc	
		County Official	8
Jackson			
County Official	3	Prentiss	
Municipal Official	14, 22	County Official	8
Jefferson Davis			
County Official	4	Simpson	
		County Official	9

** No exception in counties not listed.*

Web Version

Tippah
County Official 9

Tunica
County Official 19
School District Official 12
Municipal Official 15

Union
County Official 9

Washington
County Official 9

Wayne
County Official 10

Wilkinson
County Official 10

Winston
County Official 10

Yazoo
School District Official 12