OLA - Complaint Decision

2 messages

MN_OLA_Complaints (OLA) <ola.complaints@state.mn.us> Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 6:33 AM
To: "kellye.sundar@gmail.com" <kellye.sundar@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Strickland,

Thank you once again for contacting the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) regarding the Ramsey County District Court's fee handling process. OLA's allegations team, which includes OLA leadership, recently met and discussed your complaint. You asked us to confirm whether OLA has the authority to audit the transactions described in your complaint. OLA has the authority to audit funds transmitted from district courts to the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget as described in *Minnesota Statutes* 357.021. However, due to limited staff resources, OLA typically does not investigate complaints about an individual's experience with public programs or agencies. Consequently, your allegations were not selected for further OLA audit, inquiry, or review.

Since court administrators oversee court staff, you should consider contacting the Ramsey County District Court Administrator Michael Upton with your concerns. Ramsey County District Court can be contacted through an online contact form found here or at (651) 266-8266.

We regret that we could not be of greater assistance but hope the above information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Special Reviews Division

OLA | OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

Room 140 Centennial Bldg, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4708 | Fax: 651-296-4712 | https://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/

Kellye Sundar <kellye.sundar@gmail.com> Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 7:05 AM
To: "MN_OLA_Complaints (OLA)" <ola.complaints@state.mn.us>

Thank you for your reply. I understand your explanation regarding statutory limits and resource constraints under Minn. Stat. § 357.021. However, the facts in this case extend beyond an "individual experience." They concern systemic irregularities in Ramsey County District Court's financial handling of public funds — specifically:

Retention of over $750 in filing and transfer fees inconsistent with any published fee schedule;

A $550 appellate money order accepted and retained by the district court rather than transmitted to the Court of Appeals;

Repeated assessment of new, unscheduled fees following a sua sponte dismissal; and

Lack of any verifiable accounting or refund process.

These are not discretionary service issues; they reflect potential misappropriation and falsified accounting of judicial branch revenue, which falls squarely within OLA's financial audit authority.

I would also note that both the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. District Judge Donovan Frank have already received the same documentation as part of Strickland v. Ramsey County, et al., Case No. 25-cv-02056-DWF-DJF. The records under discussion are already preserved under a federal litigation hold, and failure to act at the state oversight level will inevitably draw federal scrutiny to OLA's role in declining review of documented financial anomalies.

I respectfully request that OLA either:

1. Formally acknowledge that these transactions fall within its audit scope under § 357.021 and reopen the complaint for limited review, or

2. Identify in writing which state entity holds ultimate accountability for auditing district-level court fee transactions if OLA declines to exercise its statutory authority.

Someone in Minnesota's oversight framework must take responsibility for ensuring that funds collected by a district court are lawfully handled and reported.

Thank you for your attention. I would appreciate written confirmation of receipt and clarification of next steps.

Sincerely,
Kellye Strickland
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