REGISTER OF WILLS
CLERK OF ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY

YORK COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER

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Chief Deputy
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January 8, 2015

TO: Doug Hoke, County Commissioner, Liaison to ROW Officers

FROM: Bradley C. Jacobs, Register of Wills/Clerk of Orphans' Court

RE: **York Co. Register of Wills/Clerk of Orphans' Court 2014 Activities. Another year of significant increases!**

The Register/Clerk had an incredible year in 2014 in several departmental areas of responsibilities. A special thanks to the department staff for their efforts in making this another record year! Also, a special thank you to Orphans' Court Judge John S. Kennedy for his support and encouragement during his first year as Orphans' Court Judge. In addition, I would like to thank Judge Cook, Judge Strong and Judge Platts for their assistance in the department's efforts.

This year the department was audited by the Commonwealth of PA Auditor General Office and the York County Auditor Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC. The PA Auditor General audit covered years 2008-2012 and the county audit for 2013. Both audits confirmed the department correctly assessed and remitted funds to the commonwealth and county. As Register/Clerk, I am proud of the results of these audits and its positive reflection upon the way our office operates.

Acting as Agent for the Commonwealth of PA, Department of Revenue, Inheritance Tax Div., the Register collected $26,330,100.41 in inheritance tax (IH) payments. This total represents the largest annual county inheritance tax collection since the passage of the tax statute in 1961. The 2014 IH tax collections exceeded the 2013 collections by $1.1 million. For this collection effort the Commonwealth of PA reimbursed the register commission $141,056.19.

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The Register/Clerk departmental budget for 2014 was $406,355.00. As of 1/06/15 actual expenses totaled $402,186.78 for a difference of $4,168.22. Total fees collected and remitted to the county general fund totaled $1,002,281.44. The sources of these funds include filing fees, IH tax commission, Act 34 and Act 24.

In 2014 estate cases opened totaled 2,145 (+3% vs. 2013) and 2,410 marriage licenses were issued (+5% vs. 2013). 2014 decreed adoptions totaled 137 (+12% vs. 2013).

In 2014 the Register/Clerk collected commonwealth fees totaling $106,954.25 (+13% vs. 2013). These fees were remitted to the Commonwealth of PA. They include Judicial Project Fees (JCS/ATJ), Act 151, Act 222 and marriage license fees.

Imaged documents for 2014 totaled 31,949 (99,057 actual pages). Please note the office does not image exhibits, adoptions or sealed cases which would greatly increase these numbers.

The 2000-2014 annual report of the department's activities is attached for your review.

Enclosure

cc: President Judge Stephen P. Linebaugh
Honorable Judge John S. Kennedy
Honorable Judge Maria Musti Cook
Honorable Judge Andrea Marceca Strong
Honorable Judge Todd R. Platts
Paul Crouse, Court Administrator
Carl Lindquist
ROW Officers