

ANTHONY B. SCJARRETTA  
JUDGE



JOHN L. MCELROY  
CLERK  
LOUISE ALMON  
DEPUTY CLERK

PROBATE COURT OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
RHODE ISLAND

January 31, 1974

To The Honorable Joseph A. Doorley, Jr., Mayor and  
The Honorable Council of the City of Providence

The following is a report from this office for the  
fiscal year starting July 1, 1972 and ending June 30, 1973.

Receipts for this period were \$63,119.13 a slight increase  
from the \$62,517.88 which was collected in 1971-1972. As of  
December 28, 1973 we have received \$28,712.64; basing the fig-  
ures on the same computation as last year the receipts should  
be in the neighborhood of \$63,000.00 for next year.

Regarding the registry accounts, money which is held by  
this office in bank accounts for absentees or unknown heirs  
and minors, \$114,275.72 was collected. \$112,254.02 was placed  
in 16 accounts set up for absentees or unknown heirs and the  
balance of \$2,021.70 went into a single account for a minor.

Thirteen Wills were placed for safe-keeping. The charge  
for this service is \$1.00 and the Will, unless withdrawn by the  
testator, is held until the testator dies and the Will is of-  
fered for probate. The Wills for safe-keeping are not public  
records and are kept sealed in the vault of the Probate Court.

During this period there were 727 new cases filed. In-  
cluded in this total are the following: 339 Wills, 157 Adminis-  
trations, 82 Guardianships, 17 registry accounts, 1 adoption,  
1 Testamentary Guardian, 7 Foreign Wills, 16 Conservatorships  
and 107 change of names. The only increase was in the change of  
name petitions and they were increased from 88 to 107 (19 ad-  
ditional cases).

Included in the gross receipts is our copy work which is  
done on the xerox machine in the City Printer's office amounting  
to \$1,498.50. On the certificates of appointment that we issue  
\$1,886.50 was collected.

There were 2605 documents presented to the Court for action either by the Judge or the Clerk. Included in that figure were 261 annual accounts filed by guardians or conservators. These accounts show all the money taken in and paid out by the fiduciary for one year. Each transaction is checked over by the Clerk and the office staff before the account can be heard by the Judge. This same procedure is used for the final accounts which are filed by executors and administrators and show the distribution of the estate; there were 280 of these accounts heard by this Court.

The General Assembly passed a new law relative to affidavits of complete administration. The new law has doubled the amount of work which the clerical staff has to now do regarding affidavits and may require additional help. The new law, however, did not cover the period of this report. According to this law releases or receipts from each heir or legatee under the Will must be attached to the affidavit along with the receipted funeral bill and state tax release and receipts from all claimants against the estate. There were 258 affidavits filed during this period and no filing fee is required.

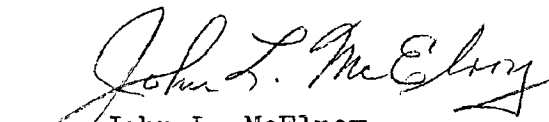
Also included in the 2605 figure were 581 inventories, 455 miscellaneous petitions and 90 petitions for sale of real estate.

There were 839 bonds filed which required the approval of either myself or the Judge. I mailed to the State Inheritance Tax Division 492 notices for which they pay 15¢ each.

The microfilm work is progressing very well. Over the past year 45 rolls were completed and there are approximately 175 cases per roll.

No bound volume has been made of the index since 1925. In addition to their other work, our staff has been compiling a combined index through 1970 and additional money will be required this year to prepare this volume.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John L. McElroy  
Clerk

JLM/1a

IN CITY COUNCIL  
**FEB 7 1974**

READ:  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

  
CLERK