



Department of Justice

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**U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CREDITED WITH COLLECTION
OF MORE THAN \$112 MILLION IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ACTIONS
IN FISCAL YEAR 2010**

Another Successful Year for Financial Enforcement

ATLANTA, GA—United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates today announced that, during the government's fiscal year ending on September 30, 2010, the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia was credited with collection of over \$112 million from individuals and businesses which committed federal crimes or are civilly indebted to the United States and which reside in the District. Although collections were lower than fiscal year (FY) 2009's record collection of \$243 million, the amount represents consistent enforcement of the financial consequences of crime and civil fraud in this District in an otherwise economically static year.

Ms. Yates said, "The unsung heroes of this effort are the women and men who work hard behind the scenes once the prosecutor or civil enforcement attorney obtains the judgment. The financial agents tenaciously pursue defendants to ensure that they pay up. Most criminals do not realize that their restitution obligations last for twenty years or more, and it is the intention of our dedicated staff to ensure that we recoup as much as possible for victims. We also thank our partners in law enforcement, particularly the United States Probation Officers, for their continued efforts to enforce restitution judgments, and their help in holding these defendants accountable."

During FY 2010, the Office collected district-wide approximately \$13.6 million and received credit for an additional \$99 million collected nationally. Of the over \$112 million collected, \$100.2 million was collected from civil debtors and \$12 million was collected from criminal debtors. In comparison, in FY2009, the Office collected a total of \$243.2 million (approximately \$231.8 million from civil debtors and \$11.4 million from criminal debtors). Despite current economic trends, the increase in collections in criminal cases from FY2009 to FY2010 was due to the efforts of the Civil Division's Financial Litigation Unit which enforced a \$1 million bond forfeited against a fugitive criminal defendant and his surety. The Unit also instituted the Treasury Offset Program for criminal debts in this district, which yielded over \$689,000 in previously uncollected

restitution payments. The large civil recoveries arose from the additional collection of \$96.9 million from Tenet Healthcare Corporation, as a result of a civil settlement in FY2008 and approximately \$790,000 from Clark Atlanta University, as a result of a civil settlement reached in FY2006.

The United States Attorney's Office is charged with enforcing federal criminal laws in the Northern District of Georgia and with representing the federal government in civil litigation in the District. The Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office includes the Affirmative Civil Enforcement (ACE) Section, the Forfeiture Unit and the Financial Litigation Unit which are responsible for civil financial enforcement actions and collection efforts ancillary to criminal prosecutions. The Office currently employs approximately 88 attorneys and 90 staff members, with division offices in Rome, Gainesville, and Newnan.

Nationwide statistics also indicate that \$3.84 billion was collected in civil actions by U.S. Attorney's Offices. The largest civil collections were from affirmative civil enforcement cases, in which the United States recovered government money lost to fraud or other misconduct or collected fines imposed on individuals and/or corporations for violations of federal health, safety, civil rights or environmental laws. In addition, civil debts were collected on behalf of several federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Internal Revenue Service, and Small Business Administration.

The nationwide collection totals for FY 2010 represent nearly a 30% increase in criminal collections and 57% increase in civil collections over FY 2009. In FY 2009, the U.S. Attorney's Offices collected more than \$4.6 billion. Of the amount collected, \$2.23 billion was collected criminally and \$2.44 billion was collected civilly. The significant increase in collections was due to various large criminal restitution cases as well as large health care fraud cases.

For further nationwide information, the United States Attorneys' Annual Statistical Reports through FY 2009 can be found on the internet at:
http://www.justice.gov/usao/reading_room/foiamanuals.html.

For further information please contact Sally Quillian Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/ga.