

Department of Justice

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CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS' U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE COLLECTS \$10.2 MILLION IN CIVIL & CRIMINAL ACTIONS IN FY 2012

Springfield, Ill. - U.S. Attorney Jim Lewis announced today that the Central District of Illinois collected \$10.2 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 related to criminal and civil actions. Of this amount, \$8,383,305 was collected in criminal actions and \$1,782,621 was collected in civil actions. The office collected \$29,413 in criminal forfeitures for restitution restoration.

As part of the total, the office collected \$5.6 million in FY 12 as a result of a criminal deferred prosecution agreement announced in September 2011 with Saudi Arabia-based Tamimi Global Company Ltd (TAFGA). The company agreed to pay the U.S. a total of \$13 million, including the \$5.6 million collected by the U.S. Attorney's Office, to resolve criminal and civil allegations of kickbacks and illegal gratuities in connection with contracts in support of the Army's operations in Iraq and Kuwait. The criminal matter was handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office; the civil matter was handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office in conjunction with the Justice Department's Civil Division.

Nationwide, for the fiscal year, U.S. Attorneys' offices collected \$13.1 billion in criminal and civil actions during FY 2012, more than doubling the \$6.5 billion collected in FY 2011. A portion of this amount, \$5.3 billion, was collected in shared cases in which one or more U.S. Attorneys' offices or department litigating divisions were also involved. The \$13.1 billion represents more than six times the appropriated budget of the combined 94 offices for FY 2012.

"We hold people accountable when the law says that they should be accountable," said U.S. Attorney Lewis. "We collect restitution for victims of crime, we collect damages if there has been fraud in government programs, we collect debts owed to the government, and we protect federal funds and the public treasury."

In another example, in April 2012, the Central District's U.S. Attorney's Office collected \$43,829 in restitution owed to an armored car company after receiving a tip from a member of the public that the defendant was hiding an expensive automobile out of state.

(More)

U.S. Attorneys' Offices, along with the Justice Department's litigating divisions, are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the U.S. and criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. Statistics indicate that the total amount collected in criminal actions totaled \$3.035 billion in restitution, criminal fines, and felony assessments. The law requires defendants to pay restitution to victims of certain federal crimes who have suffered a physical injury or financial loss. While restitution is paid directly to the victim, criminal fines and felony assessments are paid to the department's Crime Victims' Fund, which distributes the funds to state victim compensation and victim assistance programs.

The statistics also indicate that \$10.12 billion was collected by the U.S. Attorneys' offices in individually and jointly handled civil actions. 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 the Small Business Administration.

Additionally, U.S. Attorneys' offices, working with partner agencies and divisions, collected \$4.389 billion in asset forfeiture actions in FY 2012. Forfeited assets are deposited into the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund and Department of Treasury Forfeiture Fund and are used to restore funds to crime victims and for a variety of law enforcement purposes.

The \$13.16 billion collected nationwide by the U.S. Attorneys' offices for FY 2012 nearly matches the \$13.18 billion collected in FY 2010 and FY 2011 combined.

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

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