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**CHICAGO U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE COLLECTED \$31.3 MILLION
IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ACTIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2012**

CHICAGO — The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois collected approximately \$31.3 million in fiscal year (FY) 2012, Gary S. Shapiro, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced today. The collection of more than \$22.5 million in criminal and civil debts, coupled with an additional \$8.8 million collected through asset forfeiture, means that the office's total collections this past fiscal year amounted to nearly its annual budget of approximately \$34.7 million. Over the last five fiscal years combined, the office has collected more than \$724 million on behalf of the United States.

Nationwide, the 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.

"Year after year, the people in this office — especially in the Civil Division and our Financial Litigation Unit — are dedicated to protecting the public and recovering funds for the federal treasury

and for victims of federal crime,” Mr. Shapiro said. “Our mission is to keep those we prosecute from profiting from crimes.”

During FY 2012, the U.S. Attorney’s Financial Litigation Unit in Chicago collected \$15.4 million in criminal actions, including more than \$1 million in criminal fines; more than \$4.2 million in restitution owed to the federal government; and more than \$9.3 million in non-federal restitution owed to victims, including the victims of various investment frauds and Ponzi schemes. Just last week, a federal judge in Chicago authorized a court-appointed special master to distribute \$50 million in restitution to more than 7,000 victims in a pending financial fraud case, which will be reflected in FY 2013 figures.

In civil actions, the office collected more than \$7.1 million. This figure typically varies annually depending on litigation activity in a given year. In FY 2011, the figure included the collection of \$85 million from Medline Industries, Inc., and \$9.5 million from BlueCross Blue Shield of Illinois, both to settle civil health care fraud cases under the False Claims Act.

Just last month, the office filed its largest case ever against an individual under the False Claims Act against a Chicago psychiatrist, Dr. Michael J. Reinstein, alleging that he received illegal kickbacks from pharmaceutical companies and submitted at least 140,000 false claims to Medicare and Medicaid for antipsychotic medications he prescribed for thousands of mentally ill patients, as well as 50,000 additional false claims stating that he provided “pharmacologic management” for his patients at more than 30 area nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office is responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the United States and criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. When defendants are convicted and sentenced in criminal cases, judges must impose restitution to victims of certain federal

crimes who have suffered a physical injury or financial loss. The U.S. Attorney's Office is authorized to make efforts to collect criminal debts for 20 years after defendants are released from custody.

Statistics from the Justice Department indicate that collections in criminal actions totaled \$3.035 billion in restitution, criminal fines, and felony assessments. While restitution is paid by Courts directly to the victim, criminal fines and felony assessments are paid to the Justice 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 nationwide in 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 Small Business Administration.

In addition to criminal and civil debts, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago, working with partner agencies and divisions, collected approximately \$8.8 million in criminal and civil forfeitures, contributing to the nationwide collection of \$4.389 billion in asset forfeiture actions in FY 2011. In FY 2013, the Chicago U.S. Attorney's branch office in Rockford anticipates collecting funds forfeited by a former local public official who has admitted stealing \$53 million in public funds over more than two decades. So far, the U.S. Marshals Service has recovered approximately \$7.4 million from the sale of numerous assets, including approximately 400 quarter horses, with additional sales

of assets still pending. Forfeited assets are deposited into either the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund or the 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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