



Department of Justice

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U. S. ATTORNEYS' OFFICES COLLECTED \$6.5 BILLION IN CIVIL & CRIMINAL ACTIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2011

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN – U.S. Attorneys' Offices nationwide collected \$6.5 billion in criminal and civil actions in the last year, surpassing \$6 billion for the second consecutive year. The \$6.5 billion represents more than three times the budget of the combined 94 U.S. Attorneys' Offices.

U.S. Attorney Donald A. Davis announced that his office collected \$5,075,922.80 last year related to criminal and civil actions. Of this amount, \$2,693,039.74 was collected in criminal actions and \$2,382,883.06 was collected in civil actions. Additionally, the office collected \$2,443,008.00 in criminal and civil forfeitures.

“During these difficult and challenging economic times, these collections are more important than ever,” said U.S. Attorney Donald A. Davis. “The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Michigan is dedicated to protecting the public and recovering funds for the benefit of everyone, particularly victims of federal crime. We will continue to hold accountable those who profit from their civil and criminal wrongdoing.”

U.S. Attorneys' Offices, along with the 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. The total amount collected in criminal actions totaled \$2.66 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.

An additional \$3.83 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 U.S. Attorneys' Offices 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 U.S. Attorneys' Offices, working with partner agencies and divisions, also collected \$1.68 billion in asset forfeiture actions last year. 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 nationwide collection totals for the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the last two years combined is \$13.18 billion, which represents nearly a 52% increase over the \$8.55 billion of the previous two year period.

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