



Department of Justice

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SOUTHERN OHIO IN TOP TEN NATIONALLY IN FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS

Recovered funds go to federal crime victims, state and local law enforcement, federal treasury

COLUMBUS -- U.S. Attorney Carter M. Stewart announced that the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio contributed to the collection of more than \$133 million in civil and criminal actions in Fiscal Year 2010, ranking the office tenth nationally in a record-setting year for financial collections.

According to statistics from the Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio contributed to the collection of \$133,432,159.73 in FY 2010. Of this amount, \$5,604,991.48 was collected in criminal actions and \$127,827,168.25 was collected in civil actions. Additionally, the office received \$8,466,215 through forfeiture of assets in civil and criminal cases. Of that amount, \$2,762,109 was applied to victim restitution. Of the remainder, \$5,242,553 was shared with 68 state and local law enforcement agencies.

"During this time of economic recovery, these collections are more important than ever," Stewart said. "The U.S. Attorney's Office is dedicated to protecting the public and recovering funds for the federal treasury and for victims of federal crime. We will continue to hold accountable those who seek to profit from their illegal activities."

Efforts by the Department of Justice to collect in criminal and civil actions in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 reached an all-time high nationwide. The ninety-four U.S. Attorneys' offices contributed to the collection of \$6.68 billion during the government's fiscal year. This amount is the most successful collection year by the U.S. Attorneys' offices.

The U.S. Attorneys' offices are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the United States and criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. Statistics from the Department of Justice indicate that the total amount collected in criminal actions totaled \$2.84 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.

Additionally, the U.S. Attorneys' offices contributed to the collection of \$1.8 billion in asset forfeiture actions in FY 2010. Forfeited assets are deposited into either the Department of Justice Assets 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 statistics also indicate that \$3.84 billion was collected 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.

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. Attorneys' offices contributed to the collection of 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 recoveries in various large criminal restitution cases as well as large health care fraud settlements.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, with a total staff of 108, represents more than five million people in 48 of Ohio's 88 counties. The Southern District of Ohio includes the metropolitan areas of Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton.

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

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