



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

U. S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE COLLECTS \$5,880,445 THROUGH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ACTIONS IN FY 2011

SALT LAKE CITY - U.S. Attorney David B. Barlow announced Monday that the District of Utah collected \$5,880,445.15 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 related to criminal and civil actions. Of this amount, \$2,268,664.56 was collected in criminal actions and \$3,611,780.59 was collected in civil actions. The U.S. Attorney's Office is responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the United States and restitution owed to federal crime victims.

Additionally, the office forfeited assets totaling \$4,180,364 in FY 2011. This figure includes assets that were forfeited and are in the process of being sold; assets that were sold and paid as restitution to crime victims; assets that were forfeited and later destroyed (firearms, computers); and forfeiture funds shared with local law enforcement agencies that participated in cases involving forfeited assets.

The U.S. Attorney's Office also deposited \$1,856,476 into the U.S. Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund. Funds are then used to pay restitution to crime victims and for a variety of law enforcement purposes. Of this figure, \$784,627 was forfeited through administrative and civil court actions and \$1,071,849 from criminal court cases. Asset forfeiture is an effective and powerful deterrent to crime and is used to disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations that attempt to profit from their unlawful activity and to restore property to crime victims.

Nationwide, the U.S. Attorneys' offices collected \$6.5 billion in criminal and civil actions during FY 2011, surpassing \$6 billion for the second consecutive year. A portion of this amount, \$1.3 billion, was collected in shared cases in which one or more U.S. Attorneys' offices or department litigating divisions were also involved. The \$6.5 billion represents more than three times the appropriated budget of the combined 94 offices for FY 2011.

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

Nationally, \$2.66 billion was collected 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 \$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 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.

Additionally, the U.S. Attorneys’ offices, working with partner agencies and divisions, collected \$1.68 billion in asset forfeiture actions in FY 2011. 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 law enforcement purposes.

The nationwide collection totals for the U.S. Attorneys’ offices for FY 2010 and FY 2011 combined is \$13.18 billion, which represents nearly a 52 percent increase over the FY 2008 and FY 2009 combined total of \$8.55 billion.

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