



U.S. Department of Justice

RONALD W. SHARPE
United States Attorney
District of the Virgin Islands

Ron de Lugo Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse
5500 Veterans Drive, Suite 260
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, VI 00802-6424

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, December 2, 2011

U.S. Attorney's Office Collects over \$5.5 million in FY 2011

St. Thomas, USVI – The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of the Virgin Islands collected \$5,656,295 in Fiscal Year 2011, U.S. Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced today.

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. Of the \$5,656,292 collected, \$287,789 was collected in criminal actions and \$5,368,506 was collected in civil actions, Sharpe said. Additionally, the office collected \$16,704.00 in criminal and civil forfeitures.

Nationwide, U.S. Attorneys' offices collected \$6.5 billion in criminal and civil actions during FY 2011, surpassing \$6 billion for the second consecutive year. The \$6.5 billion represents more than three times the FY 2011 appropriated budget of the combined 94 U.S. Attorney's Offices throughout the country.

"During this time of economic recovery, these collections are more important than ever," U.S. Attorney Sharpe 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."

The Virgin Islands District collected \$5,368,506 in civil affirmative enforcement actions,

including \$60,000 in a health care fraud case, \$72,165 in Social Security fraud cases, \$10,000 in a tax case, and \$5,175,080 in environmental cases. The office's Financial Litigation Unit is responsible for collecting debts due to the United States in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner.

Nationwide, the total amount collected in civil actions by the U.S. Attorneys' offices totaled \$3.83 billion. 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.

Nationwide, the total amount collected in criminal actions by the U.S. Attorneys' offices 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.

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 a variety of 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% increase over the FY 2008 and FY 2009 combined total of \$8.55 billion.

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.

