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U. S. ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA ANNOUNCES COLLECTION OF *$17,658,958.86* IN CIVIL & CRIMINAL ACTIONS IN FY 2012

Lafayette/Shreveport/Lake Charles/Alexandria/Monroe, La.: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today that the Western District of Louisiana collected $17,658,958.86 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 related to criminal and civil actions. Of this amount, $7,144,727.21 was collected in criminal actions and $10,514,231.65 was collected in civil actions.

Nationwide, the United States 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.

"During this time of economic recovery, these collections are more important than ever," said U.S. Attorney Finley. "The Western District of Louisiana is dedicated to protecting the public and recovering funds for the federal treasury and for victims of federal crime. Victims depend on our office to collect restitution. We will continue to make every effort to collect restitution on behalf of those victims and hold accountable those who seek to profit from illegal activities."

The United States Attorneys' Offices, along with the Department's litigating divisions, are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the United States and criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. The total amount collected in criminal actions totaled $3.035 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. Included in the FY 2012 criminal collections was $1,617,336.65 in court ordered restitution recovered from Gus Mijalis which was owed to the Louisiana Insurance Guaranty Association.

A total of $10.12 billion was collected by all 94 of the U. S. Attorneys' Offices in civil actions. The largest of the 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 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 $4.389 billion in asset forfeiture actions in FY 2012. 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.

For further information, the United States Attorneys' Annual Statistical Reports can be viewed at: http://www.justice.gov/usao/reading_room/foiamanuals.html.

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