

U.S. Attorney's Report to the District

This office does far more than prosecute persons who violate federal criminal laws. Another key function is to recover damages, penalties, and debts owed to the United States and restitution owed to victims of federal crimes. We also pursue civil and criminal forfeitures, to strip criminals of their ill-gotten gains and to provide compensation for victims' losses. This work is carried out by the Affirmative Civil Litigation Unit, led by Kelli Taylor, which includes an asset forfeiture team and a financial litigation team. Thanks to the efforts of the attorneys and staff in these units, the American taxpayers have seen outstanding results.

In fiscal year 2010, which ended September 30, we collected over \$103 million on criminal and civil judgments. Major civil collections included \$67.5 million on a settlement of a whistle-blower suit under the False Claims Act and more than \$27 million on settlements in tort cases arising from wildfires on National Forest land in this district. Over \$2.5 million was collected on restitution orders in criminal cases to compensate victims of fraud and other crimes. Collections on criminal judgments in fiscal year 2010 were 29 percent higher than in fiscal year 2009, and collections on civil judgments were 40 percent higher. These amounts are actual funds collected, not judgment amounts.

In addition, we brought in over \$4 million in criminal and civil forfeitures in fiscal year 2010, almost a 25 percent increase over FY 2009. From these funds, we were able to provide over \$2.2 million to compensate crime victims for their losses through the Justice Department's restoration and remission program, an increase of more than \$1 million from the previous year. Another \$1.26 million was delivered to cooperating federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies for use in criminal investigations, training, and other law enforcement purposes.

Our success was part of a record year for U.S. Attorneys' offices nationally. In fiscal year 2010, U.S. Attorneys' offices across the country contributed to the collection of approximately \$6.68 billion, an all-time high. This amount included \$2.84 billion collected in criminal cases, and \$3.84 billion in civil cases. These figures represent a 30 percent increase in criminal collections and a 57 percent increase in civil collections from FY 2009.

Each year, our office recovers many millions of dollars for the American taxpayer and for victims of crime – money that otherwise would have padded the bank accounts of defendants who perpetrated frauds on the American people or destroyed precious National Forest land as a result of careless practices. The taxpayer dollars which fund this office are dollars well-spent. The \$108 million collected through the efforts of our attorneys and staff in fiscal year 2010 represents at least six times the operating budget for the entire office during that year.