



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 30, 2008**

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**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE COLLECTS
\$549.2 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2008**

United States Attorney MICHAEL J. GARCIA announced today that \$549.2 million was collected on behalf of the United States in the Southern District of New York during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008. The funds collected included payments on criminal fines and restitutions, property forfeited in criminal prosecutions and civil forfeiture actions, civil debts, and asset distributions from bankruptcy cases in which the Government was a claimant. Civil debts were collected on behalf of several agencies, including the Health Care Financing Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The \$549.2 million total consisted of \$54.3 million as a result of civil judgments, \$153.5 million in criminal fines, restitution and bail bond forfeitures, and \$341.7 million obtained through civil and criminal forfeiture actions.

Various components of the U.S. Attorney's Office play a role in collection efforts, including the Financial Litigation Unit, the Asset Forfeiture Unit, and attorneys participating in the Office's Affirmative Civil Enforcement program. The Affirmative Civil Enforcement program is responsible for prosecuting civil actions under the federal False Claims Act, under which the Government may recover up to triple the amount of actual damages plus penalties. The Financial Litigation Unit is responsible for collection of civil debts and criminal fines. The Asset Forfeiture Unit prosecutes civil and criminal forfeiture actions.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the many federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies who contributed substantially to the forfeiture effort through criminal investigations and seizures of the proceeds of crime and property used in furtherance of crime, and the United States Marshals Service, which administers the Assets Forfeiture Fund, and the Department of Treasury, which administers the Treasury Asset Forfeiture Fund.