



Department of Justice

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U. S. ATTORNEYS' OFFICES CONTRIBUTED TO \$6.68 BILLION IN CIVIL & CRIMINAL COLLECTIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2010

Recoveries Largest in History

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that financial collections by the U.S. Department of Justice in criminal and civil actions in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 reached an all-time high due to the efforts of the U.S. Attorneys' offices nationwide. The ninety-four U.S. Attorneys' offices nationwide contributed to the collection of \$6.68 billion during the government's fiscal year. This amount is the most successful collection year by the U.S. Attorneys' offices.

According to statistics from the Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Wisconsin collected \$6.898 million in FY 2010. Of this amount, \$4.053 million was collected in criminal actions (fines and restitution for victims) and \$2.845 million was collected in civil actions.

Additionally, the office collected over \$1,739,000 in criminal and civil forfeitures. State and local law enforcement agencies may receive a share of forfeiture funds when the agencies participated in the investigation. For example, in the first 10 months of calendar year 2010, over \$652,000 was provided to 23 local, state, and multi-jurisdictional task forces in the Western District of Wisconsin.

"During this time of economic recovery, these collections are more important than ever," said United States Attorney Vaudreuil. "This office is dedicated to protecting the public and recovering funds both for the federal treasury and for victims of federal crimes. We will continue to hold accountable those who seek to profit from their illegal activities."

The U.S. Attorneys' offices are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the United States and criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. Statistics from the Department of Justice indicate that the national amount

collected in criminal actions totaled \$2.84 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.

The statistics also indicate that \$3.84 billion was collected in 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, Department of Education, and Small Business Administration.

The nationwide collection totals for FY 2010 represent nearly a 30% increase in criminal collections and 57% increase in civil collections over FY 2009. In FY 2009, the U.S. Attorneys' offices collected more than \$4.6 billion. Of the amount collected, \$2.23 billion was collected criminally and \$2.44 billion was collected civilly. The significant increase in collections was due to various large criminal restitution cases as well as large health care fraud cases.

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