

U.S. Attorney's Report to the District

Although Congressional action on New Year's Day resulted in a short postponement of "sequestration" – significant budget cuts which would adversely impact the operations of this office and almost every other component of the federal government – the issue will continue to be debated in Congress as a new deadline approaches. There are many reasons why significant reductions in the resources of U.S. Attorneys' Offices are not good budgetary policy. But one factor that is often overlooked is that each year this office brings in far more revenue to federal agencies than it costs to operate the office. The Affirmative Civil Litigation Unit recovers millions of dollars every year for damages to federal properties and losses to federal programs, costs that would otherwise be borne by American taxpayers. It also recovers funds to compensate victims of crime. This past year was one of our most successful ever in terms of monetary recoveries.

In fiscal year 2012, which ended September 30, we collected over \$105 million on criminal and civil judgments. In civil cases, we received over \$91 million in payments arising from cases involving fraud against the government, negligent destruction of public resources, and other claims. Major civil collections included \$23 million in a False Claims Act case against a medical device company, and over \$45 million in tort cases arising from wildfires on National Forest land in this district. In criminal cases, we collected over \$6.8 million in restitution for victims of crimes. These amounts are actual funds collected in FY 2012, not judgment amounts. As part of the settlement of a wildfire case, we also secured a transfer of 22,500 acres of undeveloped land to the National Forest System in California, which will benefit the public for generations to come.

In addition, we brought in over \$7.5 million in criminal and civil forfeitures in fiscal year 2012. From these funds, we were able to provide an additional \$2.2 million to compensate crime victims for their losses through the Justice Department's restoration and remission program. Another \$1.2 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 2012, U.S. Attorneys' Offices across the country contributed to the collection of approximately \$13.1 billion, an all-time high. This amount represents more than six times the appropriate budget of the combined 94 U.S. Attorneys' Offices for FY 2012.

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.

If you would like to communicate with our office, contact the main number in Sacramento, or submit a suggestion by clicking on the button below. Thank you.

United States Attorney

Benjamin B. Wagner