

USTP Enforcement Activity

FY05-11

As of September 30, 2011

Annual Data Tables

Office of Planning and Evaluation
United States Trustee Program
U.S. Department of Justice

Contents

Introduction	3
Data Definitions	4
Table 1 Formal Enforcement Actions	5
Table 2 Informal Enforcement Actions	6
Table 3 Litigation Outcomes	7
Table 4 Potential Financial Impact	8

Introduction

The annual data tables contained in this document provide summary statistics on the civil enforcement activities of the United States Trustee Program. The tables summarize data for Fiscal Year 2005 through Fiscal Year 2011 (October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011). This report covers civil enforcement activity in four major areas: general civil enforcement, case administration, creditor abuse, and debtor identification.

United States Trustee Program

The United States Trustee Program (Program) is the component of the Department of Justice that is responsible for overseeing the administration of bankruptcy cases. The Program's mission is to promote integrity and efficiency in the bankruptcy system by enforcing bankruptcy laws; appointing and supervising private trustees; and ensuring that those involved in the process, including debtors, creditors, attorneys, and other professionals, fulfill their legal obligations. To carry out its mission, the Program has standing to participate in every bankruptcy case within its jurisdiction. (By statute, the Program does not have jurisdiction in Alabama and North Carolina.)

Further explanation of Program activity and a more detailed explanation of the types of enforcement actions are contained in the Program's Annual Reports of Significant Accomplishments, which are posted at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov/ust/eo/public_affairs/annualreport/index.htm

Data Definitions

Formal Actions include all motions, complaints and objections filed by Program personnel with the bankruptcy court seeking some type of relief.

Informal Actions include documented telephone calls, letters, e-mail transmissions, facsimile transmissions, and documented personal conversations by the United States Trustee to the debtor, debtor's counsel, or a third party (such as a trustee), raising a specific issue in a specific case that requires a response.

Successful Litigation Outcomes include outcomes where the court entered an order granting the relief sought by the United States Trustee, in whole or in part, or the defendant agreed to other relief satisfactory to the United States Trustee.

Success Rate is computed as the total number of formal actions where the court granted some or all of the relief sought or the defendant agreed to relief satisfactory to the US Trustee, divided by the total number of formal actions adjudicated or satisfactorily resolved prior to adjudication.

Financial Impact represents debt that potentially is not discharged in a bankruptcy case as a result of Program efforts. The measure also includes funds that become part of or remain in bankruptcy estates, funds that are returned to debtors, funds that are paid to the Treasury, and sanctions and fines as a result of Program efforts.

Table 1 – Formal Actions

Type of Formal Action	Total FY05–11	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005
General Civil Enforcement								
§ 707(a) Dismissal for Cause	27,043	2,260	2,672	3,107	3,709	5,248	6,477	3,570
§ 707(b) Dismissal for Abuse	28,797	3,323	3,809	3,912	4,372	4,835	4,301	4,245
§ 727 Denial of Discharge	12,363	1,937	1,966	2,006	1,810	1,639	1,704	1,301
§ 1328(f) Denial of Discharge	727	39	51	91	313	233	N/A	N/A
§ 1307(c) Dismissal or Conversion	5,286	271	367	331	958	1,885	708	766
§ 110 Bankruptcy Petition Preparers	2,529	504	520	301	167	245	246	546
§ 327 & § 1103 Appointment of Professionals	5,001	930	979	751	660	485	497	699
§ 329 Attorney Fee Disgorgement	3,688	635	667	542	540	465	421	418
Other Attorney Misconduct	786	127	142	41	53	66	191	166
Referrals to State Bar	163	22	39	13	19	19	11	40
Creditor Abuse and Debt Relief Agencies								
§ 526 Debt Relief Agencies	108	47	5	6	39	9	2	N/A
Abusive Conduct by Creditors	1,205	559	122	318	130	57	19	N/A
Case Administration								
§ 1112(b) Conversion or Dismissal	22,847	4,566	4,400	3,459	2,766	2,289	2,429	2,938
§ 1125 Disclosure Statements	4,143	1,037	812	489	362	405	408	630
§ 1129 Plan Confirmation	2,262	531	446	291	235	241	237	281
§ 1104 Appointment of Trustee or Examiner	792	107	150	125	122	108	63	117
§ 330 Professional Fee Requests	4,538	684	629	511	546	581	630	957
§ 326 Trustee Fees	529	27	26	29	73	97	98	179
§ 503(c) Key Employee Retention Plans	51	23	28	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Debtor Identification								
Debtor Identification - Motions/Objections	614	36	37	38	45	43	212	203
Total	123,472	17,665	17,867	16,361	16,919	18,950	18,654	17,056

N/A – Data are not available for the year indicated.

Table 2 – Informal Actions

Type of Informal Action	Total FY05–11	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005
General Civil Enforcement								
§ 707(a) Dismissal for Cause	27,807	2,448	3,106	3,946	4,211	6,014	4,624	3,458
§ 707(b) Dismissal for Abuse	186,007	17,654	22,629	24,817	31,480	40,130	26,864	22,433
§ 727 Denial of Discharge	23,462	2,635	3,733	3,765	4,259	3,598	2,826	2,646
§ 1328(f) Denial of Discharge	1,836	262	253	327	541	453	N/A	N/A
§ 1307(c) Dismissal or Conversion	1,792	85	145	207	340	456	279	280
§ 110 Bankruptcy Petition Preparers	5,642	1,119	965	667	597	470	817	1,007
§ 327 & § 1103 Appointment of Professionals	5,765	1,239	1,162	1,024	725	551	509	555
§ 329 Attorney Fee Disgorgements	8,279	1,443	1,438	1,464	1,103	1,158	897	776
Other Attorney Misconduct	2,203	366	364	430	232	227	258	326
Creditor Abuse and Debt Relief Agencies								
§ 526 Debt Relief Agencies	150	39	33	13	21	25	19	N/A
Abusive Conduct by Creditors	9,159	2,924	2,780	3,207	190	44	14	N/A
Case Administration								
§ 1112(b) Conversion or Dismissal	7,974	1,706	1,608	1,187	1,009	1,012	796	656
§ 1125 Disclosure Statements	2,269	540	422	292	260	226	250	279
§ 1129 Plan Confirmation	1,216	292	246	170	123	142	127	116
§ 1104 Appointment of Trustee or Examiner	335	47	70	49	57	51	25	36
§ 330 Professional Fee Requests	5,263	782	707	656	702	735	798	883
§ 326 Trustee Fees	1,512	179	105	142	224	325	300	237
§ 503(c) Key Employee Retention Plans	36	20	16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Debtor Identification*								
Debtor Identification – Problems Identified	17,754	2,085	2,171	2,109	2,084	1,633	3,074	4,598
Total	308,461	35,865	41,953	44,472	48,158	57,250	42,477	38,286

N/A – Data are not available for the year indicated.

(1) Most informal actions relating to debtor identification issues are conducted by private trustees.

Table 3 – Litigation Outcomes

Type of Action	Success Rate							
	Total FY05–11	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005
General Civil Enforcement								
§ 707(a) Dismissal for Cause	97.4%	98.5%	97.9%	97.9%	96.9%	96.4%	97.3%	97.6%
§ 707(b) Dismissal for Abuse	97.0%	98.7%	98.1%	97.1%	97.1%	95.1%	96.8%	96.4%
§ 727 Denial of Discharge	99.1%	99.1%	99.2%	99.0%	99.2%	98.8%	99.3%	99.3%
§ 1328 (f) Denial of Discharge	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.7%	100.0%	N/A	N/A
§ 1307(c) Dismissal or Conversion	96.6%	97.2%	99.3%	96.9%	98.1%	97.8%	97.4%	90.4%
§ 110 Bankruptcy Petition Preparers	98.5%	98.8%	99.2%	98.1%	99.4%	98.5%	97.8%	98.0%
§ 327 & § 1103 Appointment of Professionals	91.0%	89.2%	90.9%	90.9%	91.7%	88.7%	93.4%	92.6%
§ 329 Attorney Fee Disgorgement	93.6%	95.7%	96.2%	92.6%	93.9%	92.5%	89.4%	91.7%
Other Attorney Misconduct	92.4%	95.2%	96.7%	94.9%	90.9%	91.8%	85.4%	91.3%
Creditor Abuse and Debt Relief Agencies								
§ 526 Debt Relief Agencies	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	N/A
Abusive Conduct by Creditors	97.4%	99.0%	98.8%	96.9%	93.7%	93.2%	100.0%	N/A
Case Administration								
§ 1112(b) Conversion or Dismissal	97.9%	98.0%	98.1%	98.7%	98.2%	97.1%	97.5%	97.2%
§ 1125 Disclosure Statements	98.4%	98.2%	98.2%	98.9%	98.9%	97.8%	98.4%	98.8%
§ 1129 Plan Confirmation	94.4%	94.6%	95.7%	93.1%	93.5%	92.2%	92.7%	96.9%
§ 1104 Appointment of Trustee or Examiner	93.0%	93.5%	90.4%	94.1%	93.2%	95.4%	89.8%	94.2%
§ 330 Professional Fee Requests	93.5%	95.1%	94.5%	91.9%	93.0%	91.0%	92.0%	95.3%
§ 326 Trustee Fees	87.1%	85.7%	100.0%	73.1%	85.5%	75.0%	93.0%	88.8%
§ 503(c) Key Employee Retention Plans	76.2%	75.0%	77.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Debtor Identification								
Debtor Identification - Motions/Objections	98.2%	100.0%	96.2%	100.0%	100.0%	96.7%	98.5%	97.7%
Total	96.9%	97.5%	97.5%	97.2%	97.1%	96.0%	96.7%	96.4%

N/A – Data are not available for the year indicated.

Table 4 – Potential Financial Impact (\$1,000’s)

Type of Formal and Informal Action (1) (Includes Fines and Fees Recovered)	Total (2) FY05–11	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005
General Civil Enforcement								
§ 707(a) Dismissal for Cause	\$1,821,217	\$329,309	\$888,759	\$138,007	\$108,015	\$161,277	\$168,060	\$27,790
§ 707(b) Dismissal for Abuse	\$2,624,743	\$477,213	\$475,168	\$394,186	\$375,162	\$320,267	\$299,064	\$283,683
§ 727 Denial of Discharge	\$4,249,512	\$1,598,565	\$976,044	\$505,748	\$326,140	\$326,927	\$297,004	\$219,084
§ 1328 (f) Denial of Discharge	\$64,966	\$6,585	\$12,646	\$10,872	\$25,732	\$9,131	N/A	N/A
§ 110 Actions - Fines Imposed	\$12,522	\$1,916	\$4,219	\$2,874	\$668	\$443	\$259	\$2,143
§ 110 Actions - Fees Recovered	\$1,847	\$419	\$622	\$210	\$160	\$130	\$88	\$218
§ 329 Attorney Fee Disgorgement	\$21,615	\$2,616	\$2,466	\$1,776	\$1,060	\$1,955	\$11,079	\$663
Attorney Sanctions	\$1,935	\$179	\$230	\$220	\$34	\$50	\$1,144	\$78
Creditor Abuse and Debt Relief Agencies								
§ 526 Debt Relief Agencies	\$109	\$51	\$4	\$18	\$10	\$25	\$1	N/A
Creditor Claims Reduced or Withdrawn, Sanctions, and Fines	\$30,153	\$19,101	\$6,855	\$3,296	\$166	\$729	\$6	N/A
Case Administration								
§ 330 Professional Fee Requests	\$433,586	\$99,449	\$44,480	\$28,525	\$66,074	\$46,862	\$90,989	\$57,207
§ 326 Trustee Fees	\$23,217	\$627	\$1,883	\$4,139	\$1,231	\$2,228	\$10,473	\$2,636
Debtor Identification								
Debtor Identification - Objection to Discharge	\$4,055	\$95	\$1,776	\$155	\$552	\$508	\$552	\$417
Total	\$9,289,474	\$2,536,125	\$2,415,152	\$1,090,027	\$905,003	\$870,531	\$878,718	\$593,918

N/A – Data are not available for the year indicated.

- (1) Some enforcement activities of U.S. Trustees, even when successful, do not have a directly measurable financial impact. Therefore, there are fewer categories listed on this table than on the previous three tables.
- (2) Due to rounding, total potential financial impact by type of action or fiscal year may vary slightly from the sum of the row or column table entries.