



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE COLLECTS MORE THAN \$70 MILLION FROM CRIMINAL AND CIVIL ACTIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2007

Amount Almost Doubles The Collections In Fiscal Year 2006

ATLANTA, GA--United States Attorney David E. Nahmias today announced that, during the government's fiscal year 2007 that ended on September 30, 2007, the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia collected \$71.7 million from individuals and businesses that committed federal crimes or are civilly indebted to the United States and who reside and conduct business in the District. This amount almost doubled the Office's collection total of \$37.1 million in fiscal year 2006. This is the second year in a row that the United States Attorney's Office has almost doubled its collections of the previous year.

"We take seriously the monetary obligations imposed by federal courts as part of a defendant's sentence for a crime or as part of a civil settlement," said Nahmias. "These collections reflect in particular our commitment to assisting victims of crimes in obtaining restitution. Recovery of these losses requires the dedicated efforts of many people, and we thank our law enforcement partners and the U.S. Probation Office for their efforts to ensure that as many dollars as possible are returned to victims, service organizations and the community every year."

The Financial Litigation Unit (FLU) of the U.S. Attorney's Office litigates debt collection issues and enforces collection of criminal and civil debts owed to the United States and to victims of federal crime. The FLU enforces collection of civil debts on behalf of federal agencies in litigation that most often involves federal loan programs, civil penalties assessed by federal agencies and civil fraud actions litigated by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In criminal cases, those who are convicted are often subject to criminal asset forfeiture, whereby the Government seizes property that was involved in or the result of criminal conduct. At sentencing, the Court may also impose on a defendant a criminal fine and/or order restitution to victims. A mandatory special assessment is also imposed upon each individual or corporate defendant at the time of sentencing.

During fiscal year (FY) 2007, the U.S. Attorney's Office collected \$71.7 million. Of the amount collected, \$57.3 million was collected from criminal debtors and \$14.4 million was collected from civil debtors. In comparison, in FY2006, the Office collected approximately \$37.1 million (\$21.4 million from criminal debtors and \$15.7 million from civil debtors). The substantial increase of \$34.6 million in collections from FY2006 to FY2007 was due to several significant recoveries, including \$13.1 million in United States v. Lagrone and Stacy; \$20.2 million in restitution and fines collected in United States v. Beaulieu Group, LLC; and \$3.8 million paid in full in United States v. Acuity Speciality Products, Inc. In addition, approximately \$2.4 million in forfeited assets and funds were restored to victims through the efforts of the United States Attorney's Office in the cases of United States v. Claire and Ngomendeng (\$1.7 million); United States v. R. Scott Cunningham and Abraham Kennard (\$450,000), United States v. Mehta and Tate (\$175,000) and United States v. Olivier Rio Souza (\$118,000). Large civil collections included recoveries in the Morehouse Medical Associates, Inc. settlement (\$1.525 million); the Northside Hospital qui tam settlement (\$6.3 million) and the collection matter of United States v. David T. Kent (\$500,000).

The United States Attorney's Office is charged with enforcing federal criminal laws in the Northern District of Georgia and with representing the United States in civil litigation in the District. The Office currently employs approximately 80 attorneys and 90 staff members, with division offices in Rome, Gainesville, and Newnan.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.