



# 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 \$37 MILLION IN CRIMINAL AND CIVIL ACTIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2006**

*Almost Doubling the Collections From Fiscal Year 2005*

ATLANTA, GA--United States Attorney David E. Nahmias today announced that during the federal government's fiscal year 2006 that ended on September 30, 2006, the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia collected \$37.1 million from individuals and businesses who 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 \$18.6 million in fiscal year 2005.

"The amount of funds collected by this office reflects the good and hard work of our prosecutors and our Financial Litigation Unit and represents a commitment to follow through on behalf of victims of crimes and all taxpayers," said Nahmias. "This fiscal year we collected well over twice the amount of money it takes to run this office, and thanks to law enforcement efforts, millions of dollars 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 proceedings, in which the Government seizes property that was involved in or the result of criminal conduct. Also, at sentencing the Court often imposes on a defendant a criminal fine and/or orders restitution to victims. In many criminal cases, a mandatory special assessment is also imposed upon each individual or corporate defendant at the time of sentencing.

During fiscal year (FY) 2006, the Office collected approximately \$37.1 million. Of the amount collected, \$21.4 million was collected from criminal debtors and \$15.7 million was collected from civil debtors. In FY2005, the Office collected approximately \$18.6 million (\$10.6 million from criminal debtors and \$10 million from civil debtors). The substantial increase of \$18.5 million in collections from FY2005 to FY2006 was due to several significant recoveries. These significant recoveries included criminal recoveries of \$13 million in United States v. Julian Gilbert, in which seized assets were used to pay victims through a bankruptcy receiver; \$2 million in United States v. Charles Edwards, a major investment fraud case; and \$670,000 in United States v. Abraham Kennard, in which forfeited funds were restored by the United States Attorney's Office to churches and other non-profit organizations that were bilked through a fraudulent investment scheme. Large civil collections included recoveries from health care fraud actions against Life Care Centers of America, Inc. in the amount of \$2.5 million; Piedmont Hospital in the amount to date of \$3.9 million; and a nationwide investigation of Tenet Healthcare Corporation leading to a recovery to date of \$3.5 million.

The United States Attorney's Office is charged with enforcing federal criminal laws in the Northern District of Georgia and with representing the federal government in civil litigation in the District.

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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).