County Data on Civil Asset Forfeiture in Alabama

This study examined all civil asset forfeiture cases filed in 14 Alabama counties during 2015. The 1,110 cases comprised 70 percent of all such cases filed that year. Of those cases, there were final dispositions in 827 by October 2017, resulting in nearly $2.2 million being awarded to agencies in those counties. The following county data is arranged in order of the counties that received the most cash in forfeiture cases.

*CASH FORFEITED* The total amount of cash that courts awarded to local law enforcement agencies in civil asset forfeitures cases filed within the county in 2015.

*DEFAULTS* The percentage of disposed cases in which the property was awarded to government agencies after the owner failed to contest the forfeiture.

*NO CRIMINAL CHARGES* The percentage of forfeiture cases filed in the county in which the property owner was not charged with a crime connected to the forfeiture case.
CALHOUN COUNTY

Judges in Calhoun County appeared more likely to dismiss civil forfeiture cases than those in other counties. Those dismissed cases are generally victories for the property owners. In 65% of all cases linked to criminal charges, the person charged was black (county is 21% black). In 70 percent of the civil cases linked to criminal charges, the offense involved marijuana.

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weaver Police Department</td>
<td>$7,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun/Cleburne County Drug Task Force</td>
<td>$6,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont Police Department</td>
<td>$4,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh Judicial Circuit District Attorney</td>
<td>$2,016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COUNTIES REVIEWED

Arranged in order of the counties that received the most cash in forfeiture cases.

1. Mobile        8. Covington
4. Tuscaloosa    11. Pike
5. Houston       12. DeKalb
7. Calhoun       14. Marion

STATE’S WINNING PERCENTAGE

47%

CASES WHERE CRIMINAL CHARGES NOT FILED AGAINST PROPERTY OWNER

17%

DISPOSED CASES RESULTING IN DEFAULT JUDGMENT

26%

19 CASES CLOSED

$20,164 FORFEITED CASH AWARDED BY JUDGES

$3,000 CASH FORFEITED FROM INDIVIDUALS NOT CRIMINALLY CHARGED

OTHER FORFEITED ITEMS

5 WEAPONS
2 VEHICLES
8 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS