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.
DEKALB COUNTY

The court took a considerable cut of forfeiture proceeds. Final orders in eight of 14 total cases included court costs paid directly from the proceeds. Court records were unclear about the final disposition of an additional $8,077 in seized cash. Nine of the 11 property owners charged with crimes here were white and one was Hispanic (county is 2% black).

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

Dekalb County Commission/Dekalb County Drug and Major Crime Task Force $8,078
DeKalb County Civil Court $3,158
City of Collinsville $989

COUNTIES REVIEWED
Arranged in order of the counties that received the most cash in forfeiture cases.
1. Mobile
2. Madison
3. Jefferson
4. Tuscaloosa
5. Houston
6. Shelby
7. Calhoun
8. Covington
9. Montgomery
10. St. Clair
11. Pike
12. DeKalb
13. Cherokee
14. Marion

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

85%
STATE’S WINNING PERCENTAGE

21%
CASES WHERE CRIMINAL CHARGES NOT FILED AGAINST PROPERTY OWNER

77%
DISPOSED CASES RESULTING IN DEFAULT JUDGMENT

13 CASES CLOSED
$12,224 FORFEITED CASH AWARDED BY JUDGES
$2,867 CASH FORFEITED FROM INDIVIDUALS NOT CRIMINALLY CHARGED
OTHER FORFEITED ITEMS
16 FIREARMS
4 VEHICLES
8 ELECTRONIC ITEMS
2 DIGITAL SCALES