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.
JEFFERSON COUNTY

A major story in 2015 was the seizure of $333,564 from a defendant who pleaded guilty to drug trafficking. Though the federal government took over the criminal case, the forfeiture of cash, guns and property went through state court. In 77% of all cases linked to criminal charges, the person charged was black (county is 43% black). In 48% of the cases where criminal charges were filed against the property owner, the offense involved marijuana.

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

City of Pleasant Grove Police Department $318,793
Birmingham Police Department $110,414
Irondale Police Department $65,660
Jefferson County District Attorney $62,111
Vestavia Hills Police Department $29,978
Jefferson County District Attorney-Bessemer $22,122
Homewood Police Department $16,773
Hueytown Police Department $15,975
Hoover Police Department $10,000
Alabama General Fund $12,363
Bessemer Police Department $7,891
Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office $7,270
Alabama State Bar Client Security Fund $4,273
Trussville Police Department $3,889
Mountain Brook Police Department $2,245
Gardendale Police Department $2,143
Shelby County Drug Enforcement Task Force $572

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