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.
MOBILE COUNTY

The largest drivers of civil forfeiture in the county were the drug units at the county’s two major law enforcement agencies. In 72% of the cases where criminal charges were filed against the property owner, the charges were related to marijuana. In 72% of all cases linked to criminal charges, the person charged was black (county is 36% black).

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

Mobile Police Department Narcotics and Vice Unit $221,737
Mobile County District Attorney $169,226
Mobile County Street Enforcement Narcotics Team $74,095
Mobile County Sheriff’s Office Narcotics and Vice Unit $57,123
Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences $25,425
Mobile Police Department Tactical Intelligence Detail $9,341
Saraland Police Department $2,904
Citronelle Police Department $2,410
Prichard Police Department $1,276
Dauphin island Police Department $1,008
Alabama Law Enforcement Agency $846

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

77% STATE’S WINNING PERCENTAGE
29% CASES WHERE CRIMINAL CHARGES NOT FILED AGAINST PROPERTY OWNER
56% DISPOSED CASES RESULTING IN DEFAULT JUDGMENT

231 CASES CLOSED
$565,391 FORFEITED CASH AWARDED BY JUDGES
$293,532 CASH FORFEITED FROM INDIVIDUALS NOT CRIMINALLY CHARGED
OTHER FORFEITED ITEMS
129 WEAPONS
30 VEHICLES
36 ELECTRONIC ITEMS
38 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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