

The Philadelphia Courts
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF PROGRAM TO COLLECT OUTSTANDING FINES, FEES, COSTS, RESTITUTION & BAIL JUDGMENTS OWED TO CITY, STATE AND VICTIMS OF CRIME

Request for Proposal Issued for Multiple Collection Attorney Specialists

PHILADELPHIA, PA

-- Officials of the Philadelphia Court system (the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania) announced today that they are seeking attorneys who are specialists in collections practice to execute, and collect, on court judgments for outstanding fines, fees, costs, restitution, and bail judgments owed to the City of Philadelphia, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and victims of crime. Working closely with the Mayor's Office, the FJD developed the RFP and has established an Office of Court Compliance to monitor and direct the FJD's comprehensive collection campaign.

The Court is actively seeking payment on 400,000 accounts with outstanding balances totaling \$1.5 billion (this includes \$1 billion in bail judgments). Those who do not voluntarily make payments to bring their payment plans up to date by February 28, 2011, will face substantial collection costs and interest on top of the balance already owed, execution and sale of their property by the Sheriff, and a warrant for their arrest for failure to comply with a court order.

To make arrangements for payment of court ordered financial obligations, email the court accounting unit at payment.inquiries@courts.phila.gov, or call 215-683-1482. Emails are preferred.

President Judge Pamela Dembe declared that "Time is up for those who owe restitution to their victims and court costs to the City. We have encouraged folks to step up and take responsibility for their debts. Law-abiding citizens are not willing to let these debts slide. We take seriously our role in helping the City survive these very difficult financial times. We also believe that victims are entitled to be made financially whole."

Defendants can check the amount they owe by reviewing the Docket Sheets on the Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System's Web portal at <http://ujportal.pacourts.us/DocketSheets/CP.aspx> (Search Type: "Participant Name" – and entering their name and Date of Birth) Pay on-line on the secure web application at <http://ujportal.pacourts.us/ePay/Default.aspx>. The monies collected through the effort will be paid to the City of Philadelphia, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Crime Victims, and other statutorily-required recipients.

For additional Program Information contact David Wasson Esquire, Chief Deputy Court Administrator at:

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