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**Missouri State Auditor** 

# Compilation of 2007 Criminal Activity Forfeiture Act Seizures

February 2008 Report No. 2008-10



auditor.mo.gov





As required by state law the State Auditor's Office compiled the 2007 Criminal Activity Forfeiture Act (CAFA) seizure reports submitted to our office by prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General. This compilation was limited to the presentation of information submitted.

The State Auditor received a total of 114 (98%) of the 116 CAFA seizure reports, from prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General for property seized in calendar year 2007 as required by Section 513.607, RSMo. One hundred one (87%) of the reports were received prior to the January 31, 2008 deadline.

A comparison of 2007 report filings to those of prior years shows more seizures in 2007; however, these seizures have a lower dollar value.

To accomplish our objectives, we compiled all seizure information submitted to the State Auditor for calendar year 2007 and reviewed the compiled information previously submitted for the calendar years 2006 and 2005 so that a comparison would be available.

A letter dated December 17, 2007 was mailed to prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General, notifying them of the deadline for submission of the CAFA seizure and forfeiture reports. This letter listed the information that should be included in their report according to Section 513.607 RSMo, and that the report should be submitted to both the State Auditor and to the Director of the Department of Public Safety. The letter also indicated that if there were no seizures, a report was still needed indicating that information.

All reports are available on our Web site: www.auditor.mo.gov

# COMPILATION OF 2007 CRIMINAL ACTIVITY FORFEITURE ACT SEIZURES $\underline{\mathsf{TABLE}\ \mathsf{OF}\ \mathsf{CONTENTS}}$

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STATE AUDITOR'S REPORT



Honorable Matt Blunt, Governor and Members of the General Assembly Jefferson City, Missouri

As required by Section 513.607, RSMo, we have compiled the 2007 Criminal Activity Forfeiture Act (CAFA) seizure reports submitted to the State Auditor by prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General. A compilation is limited to presenting information that is submitted. We have not audited the reports submitted and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them. The primary objectives of this compilation were to:

- 1. Identify those officials who submitted 2007 CAFA seizure reports to the State Auditor.
- 2. Summarize and evaluate the 2007 CAFA seizure information reported.

Section 513.607 RSMo, requires prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General to report CAFA seizures for the previous calendar year by January 31 to both the Director of the Department of Public Safety and the State Auditor. We received 87 percent of the CAFA seizure reports, by the required due date of January 31, 2008.

Susan Montee, CPA State Auditor

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The following staff participated in the preparation of this report:

Director: Thomas J. Kremer, CPA
In-Charge Auditor: Becky Webb, CPA
Audit Staff: Darrell Wolken

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# **Background**

The State Auditor's report number 99-97 titled *Review of Forfeited Property* identified weaknesses in the state's Criminal Activity Forfeiture Act (CAFA) law. Subsequently, revisions to the state's CAFA law (Sections 513.600 to 513.653, RSMo) were addressed requiring the prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General to whom seizures were reported to submit a copy of the seizure report to the State Auditor at the time the report is submitted to the Director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS). The legislation added the requirement for the State Auditor to make an annual report compiling the data received regarding the seizures. A penalty provision for intentional or knowing failure to comply with any reporting requirements was also included.

Other revisions in the CAFA included more restrictions on transfers of seized property by state or local agency to any federal agency. These restrictions were not reviewed, as they are not within the scope of our report.

# Compliance with Submitting Criminal Activity Forfeiture Act (CAFA) Seizures Reports

The State Auditor received a total of 114 (98 percent) of the 116 CAFA seizure reports, from prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General for property seized in calendar year 2007 as required by section 513.607, RSMo. One hundred one (87 percent) of the reports were received prior to the January 31, 2008 deadline. Table 1.1 lists the total number of CAFA seizure reports submitted to the State Auditor for 2007, 2006, and 2005. For 2007, 48 (42 percent) of the total reports, reported zero seizures.

**Table 1.1: Summary of CAFA Seizure Reports Submitted By Date** 

			*				
<b>Reporting Status</b>	2007 S	eizures	2006 \$	Seizures	2005 Seizures		
By January 31	101	87.1%	92	79.3%	94	81.0%	
After January 31	13	11.2%	15	12.9%	16	13.8%	
Total Reported	114	98.3%	107	92.2%	110	94.8%	
Failed to Report	2	1.7%	9	7.8%	6	5.2%	
Total Reports Required	116	100.0%	116	100.0%	116	100.0%	

Source: CAFA seizure reports submitted by prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General

# Prosecutors that Failed to Report 2007 CAFA Seizures or Submitted Report Late

Table 1.2 lists the prosecuting attorneys that either submitted the 2007 CAFA seizure report after January 31, 2008, or failed to submit a 2007 CAFA seizure report. Section 513.607.10, RSMo, states intentional or knowing failure to comply with any reporting requirement shall be a class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.

<sup>\*</sup> Includes 10 CAFA seizure reports submitted by prosecuting attorneys to the State Auditor after the 2006 report was issued. Only Bates, Camden, Madison, McDonald, Perry, Pulaski, Ste. Genevieve, Shannon, and Webster County prosecuting attorneys failed to submit a 2006 CAFA seizure report to the State Auditor.

Table 1.2: Summary of Prosecuting Attorneys that Failed to Report 2007 CAFA Seizures or Submitted 2007 CAFA Seizure Reports Late

Prosecuting Attorney	Failed to Report	Submitted Late
Camden	X	
Dade		X
Harrison		X
Jackson		X
McDonald		X
Mississippi		X
Morgan		X
Perry		X
St. Clair		X
St. Francois		X
St. Louis County		X
Saline		X
Stone		X
Wayne	X	
Wright		X
Totals	2	13

Source: Review of CAFA seizure reports submitted by prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General

# **Disposition of the Seizures Reported**

The disposition of the CAFA seizures reported was compiled from the reports submitted by the prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General. Table 1.3 lists the dollar value of the disposition of seizures reported.

**Table 1.3: Summary of Required Information Reported** 

		*							
<b>Reported Disposition</b>	2007 Sei	zures		2006 Seiz	zures		2005 Sei	zures	
Pending	\$	1,464,990	33%	\$	1,591,228	30%	\$	2,319,802	57%
Returned		674,253	15%		664,158	13%		388,673	10%
Transferred to Federal Agency		2,028,673	45%		2,810,763	54%		1,272,420	31%
Transferred to State		74,461	2%		83,038	2%		71,225	2%
Disposition Not Reported		248,730	5%		51,942	1%		0	0%
Other		13,914	0%		14,446	0%		1,653	0%
Total	\$	4,505,021	100%	\$	5,215,275	100%	\$	4,053,773	100%

Source: CAFA seizure reports submitted by prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General

See Appendix I for a listing of the 2007 CAFA seizures disposition reported by each prosecuting attorney and the Attorney General.

# **Compliance with Reporting the Required Information**

Section 513.607.8, RSMo, requires prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General to report the following information: date, time, and place of the seizure; the property seized; the estimated value of the property seized; the person(s) from whom the property was seized; the criminal charges filed; and the disposition of the seizure, forfeiture, and criminal actions. Table 1.4 lists the required information for the CAFA seizure reports received and the number of cases that

reported each required item. Some reports did not include all of the required information; therefore, our compilation includes only the information reported.

**Table 1.4: Summary of Required Information Reported** 

				*		
Required Information	2007 Seizures		2006 \$	2006 Seizures		Seizures
Date	1,654	99.9%	633	99.8%	1,667	99.9%
Time	1,430	86.4%	409	64.5%	334	20.0%
Place of Seizure	1,637	98.9%	626	98.7%	1,639	98.3%
Property Seized	1,655	99.9%	628	99.1%	1,571	94.2%
Estimated Value of Property Seized	703	42.5%	612	96.5%	629	37.7%
Person(s) Property Seized From	1,656	100.0%	625	98.6%	1,665	99.8%
Criminal Charges Filed	1,450	87.6%	346	54.6%	252	15.1%
Disposition of Seizure	1,656	100.0%	634	100.0%	1,668	100.0%
Disposition of Criminal Actions	1,344	81.2%	443	69.9%	427	25.6%
Total Cases Reported **	1,656	100.0%	634	100.0%	1,668	100.0%

Source: CAFA seizure reports submitted by prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General

\*\* The decrease in the number of seizures from 2005 to 2006 and subsequent increase from 2006 to 2007 appears due to the fluctuation in the number of seizures reported by St. Louis City. In 2005, St. Louis City reported 1,146 seizures including 930 vehicles. In 2006, St. Louis City reported only 90 seizures with no vehicles. In 2007, St. Louis City reported 1,150 seizures including 937 vehicles.

See Appendix II for a listing of the number of 2007 CAFA seizure cases that contained the required information reported for each prosecuting attorney and the Attorney General.

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

# **OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY**

# **Objectives**

The primary objectives of this compilation were to (1) identify those officials who submitted 2007 CAFA seizure reports to the State Auditor and (2) summarize and evaluate the 2007 CAFA seizure information reported.

# **Scope and Methodology**

To accomplish our objectives we:

- Reviewed the compiled seizure information submitted to the State Auditor for calendar years 2006 and 2005 for comparison purposes only.
- Mailed a letter to prosecuting attorneys and to the Attorney General, dated December 17, 2007, reminding them of the deadline for submission of the CAFA seizure and forfeiture reports.
- Compiled all seizure information submitted to the State Auditor for calendar year 2007.
- Identified the reports submitted on a timely basis.
- Identified the reports not containing the required information.
- Compiled the dollar value of the disposition of all seizures reported.
- Contacted the Department of Public Safety to identify the 2007 CAFA seizure reports submitted to both the State Auditor and to the Director of the Department of Public Safety or to one office.
- Compiled only seizure reports received by February 22, 2008, due to the February 29, 2008, statutory deadline for the State Auditor to submit this report.

# Limitations

The data presented in the appendixes were compiled from information submitted by the various prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General and were not verified by us via additional audit procedures. In analyzing these appendixes, some disparity may result due to the different methods used by the various prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General of presenting essentially the same information.

**APPENDIXES** 

# 2007 CAFA Disposition Reported

		Estimated								
		Value of	Status Reported as of December 31, 2007							
Reporting		all Cases			Transferred to	Transferred				
Entity		Reported	Pending	Returned	Federal Agency	to State	Not Reported	Other		
Adair	\$	151,600	151,600							
Andrew		900	900							
Atchison		1,051	1,051							
Attorney Genera	al	0								
Audrain		1,001	1,001							
Barry		1,170	361	809						
Barton		0								
Bates		0								
Benton		0								
Bollinger		160,000		160,000						
Boone		34,636	17,788	13,392	3,456					
Buchanan		48,479	36,731	4,458			453	6,837		
Butler		0								
Caldwell		0								
Callaway		8,327	7,235			1,092				
Camden		DNF								
Cape Girardeau		73,188	6,131	7,660	59,397					
Carroll		181	181							
Carter		0								
Cass		9,199	9,199							
Cedar		1,008	1,008							
Chariton		0								
Christian		44,886	841			43,765	280			
Clark		0								
Clay		39,819	39,819							
Clinton		17,060	17,060							
Cole		31,885	5,618			707	25,560			
Cooper		9,278	9,278				,			
Crawford		0	ŕ							
Dade		0								
Dallas		0								
Daviess		0								
Dekalb		0								
Dent		49,658	49,658							
Douglas		0	ŕ							
Dunklin		7,105	4,500		2,605					
Franklin		18,294	18,294		,					
Gasconade		0	,							
Gentry		0								
Greene		33,609	26,274		7,335					
Grundy		0	,		,					
Harrison		4,000	4,000							
Henry		12,352	12,352							
Hickory		0	, <del>-</del>							
Holt		0								
Howard		1,157	1,157							
Howell		54,705	, - •	54,705						
		,		,. 50						

# 2007 CAFA Disposition Reported

	Estimated Value of		Status Reported as of December 31, 2007						
Reporting	all Cases		Stati	Transferred to	Transferred	1, 2007			
Entity	Reported	Pending	Returned	Federal Agency	to State	Not Reported	Other		
Iron	$\frac{-\frac{1}{0}}{0}$	rename	Returned	1 ederai 7 igeney	to State	1 tot Reported	Other		
Jackson	571,652	513,197	52,784	2,450	3,221				
Jasper	21,928	5,704	32,701	16,224	3,221				
Jefferson	88,624	40,738		47,886					
Johnson	6,689	5,672		77,000	1,017				
Knox	0,089	3,072			1,017				
Laclede	570					570			
Lafayette	209,698	43,013		118,608		41,000	7,077		
Lawrence	209,098	43,013		110,000		41,000	7,077		
	0								
Lewis		2 251	20.4	04.700		(75			
Lincoln	98,042	2,351	294	94,722		675			
Linn	0				5 575				
Livingston	5,575	0.40			5,575				
Macon	840	840		2.544					
Madison	2,544			2,544					
Maries	0								
Marion	0								
McDonald	0								
Mercer	0								
Miller	63,150	63,150							
Mississippi	16,437			16,437					
Moniteau	0								
Monroe	8,000		8,000						
Montgomery	13,204	8,505	3,490		1,209				
Morgan	0								
New Madrid	0								
Newton	12,478	10,002	2,476						
Nodaway	0								
Oregon	0								
Osage	0								
Ozark	0								
Pemiscot	0								
Perry	0								
Pettis	9,911	3,578			6,333				
Phelps	23,250	23,250			,				
Pike	20,705	20,705							
Platte	21,940	21,940							
Polk County	0	,-							
Pulaski	82,725	12,500		70,225					
Putnam	0	12,000		7 0,220					
Ralls	0								
Randolph	13,699					13,699			
Ray	45,976	26,316	19,660			13,077			
Reynolds	0	20,510	17,000						
Ripley	17,482	12,721		4,761					
Saline	8,122	8,122		7,701					
Schuyler	0,122	0,122							
Schuylei	U								

# 2007 CAFA Disposition Reported

	Estimated Value of		Stat	us Reported as of	December 3	1 2007	
Reporting	all Cases		Stat	Transferred to	Transferred	1, 2007	
Entity	Reported	Pending	Returned	Federal Agency	to State	Not Reported	Other
Scotland	0						
Scott	7,126	7,126					
Shannon	0	,					
Shelby	2,235	2,235					
St. Charles	951,431	15,730	40,000	892,187	3,514		
St. Clair	15,776			15,776			
St. Francois	9,022	9,022					
St. Louis County	300,800		29,472	101,847	3,873	165,608	
St. Louis City	879,541	39,638	267,690	572,213			
Ste. Genevieve	119,124	116,144			2,980		
Stoddard	0						
Stone	0						
Sullivan	0						
Taney	12,675	10,790			1,000	885	
Texas	0						
Vernon	9,800	9,000	800				
Warren	1,784	1,784					
Washington	9,180	9,180					
Wayne	DNF						
Webster	8,563		8,563				
Worth	0						
Wright	175				175		
\$	4,505,021	1,464,990	674,253	2,028,673	74,461	248,730	13,914

DNF - Did not file a 2007 CAFA seizure report with the State Auditor's Office Other - Paid to child support enforcement, county school fund, or was destroyed

This appendix compiles only the information reported to the State Auditor's Office by prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General. Not all seizure reports included an estimated value of the property seized and not all the reports included the disposition of all seizures reported.

# 2007 CAFA Seizure Required Information Reported

# 2007 CAFA Seizure Required Information Reported

# 2007 CAFA Seizure Required Information Reported

Number of Cases that Reported Required Information Disposition Estimated Estimated Person(s) Value of Number Value of Property Criminal Reporting of Cases all Cases Place Property Property Seized Charges Criminal Seized Filed Actions Entity Reported Reported Date Time Seized Seized From Saline 8,122 Schuyler Scotland Scott 7,126 Shannon Shelby 2,235 St. Charles 951,431 St. Clair 15,776 St. François 9,022 St. Louis County 300,800 1,150 1,150 1,102 1,150 1,150 1,150 1,150 1,150 St. Louis City 879,541 Ste. Genevieve 119,124 Stoddard Stone Sullivan Taney 12,675 Texas Vernon 9,800 Warren 1.784 Washington 9,180 DNF Wayne Webster 8,563 Worth Wright 1,654 1,637 1,655 1,450 1,656 1,344 1,656\$ 4,505,021 1,430 1,656

DNF - Did not file a 2007 CAFA Seizure report with the State Auditor's Office

This appendix compiles the total number of 2007 CAFA seizure cases, the total estimated value of cases reported, and the number of cases that reported the required information for each county prosecuting attorney, the city of St. Louis, and the Attorney

#### December 17, 2007

**TO:** Prosecuting Attorneys

RE: Annual Seizure Report due January 31, 2008

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# Purpose...

This letter is a reminder of the upcoming deadline for the submission of annual seizure and forfeiture reports.

# Responsibility of the State Auditor...

Under Section 513.607.9, RSMo, of the Criminal Activity Forfeiture Act (CAFA), the State Auditor has the responsibility to compile and issue an annual report of the data received from law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General. The report is considered an open record.

# Responsibility of the Prosecuting Attorney and Attorney General...

Under Section 513.607.8, RSMo, of CAFA, the prosecuting attorneys or Attorney General to whom seizures are reported shall report annually to the State Auditor and to the Director of Public Safety by January 31, information on all reported seizures for the previous calendar year. This report shall include the following information:

• date, time and place of the seizure, the property seized, the estimated value of the property seized, the person(s) from whom the property was seized, the criminal charges filed, and the disposition of the seizure, forfeiture and criminal actions.

#### Procedures...

Please use the enclosed form to report the seizures that were reported to your office by local law enforcement personnel. If you would like the enclosed form in an excel spreadsheet, please call or e-mail our office at <a href="moaudit@auditor.mo.gov">moaudit@auditor.mo.gov</a>. Indicate the total number of seizures, <a href="moaudit@even">even if the number is zero</a>, that were reported to your office and the dollar value of the seized property. Make copies of the enclosed form to accommodate the number of seizures reported to your office and mail a copy to each of the following:

State Auditor of Missouri Attn: Webb PO Box 869 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Department of Public Safety Attn: NCAP Section PO Box 749 Jefferson City, MO 65102

# Questions or Suggestions...

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. If you have any suggestions to make this process more efficient, please direct them to Becky Webb.

Sincerely,

SUSAN MONTEE, CPA STATE AUDITOR

Thomas J. Kremer, CPA Director of Audits

Enclosure -16-

# Missouri Revised Statutes

# Chapter 513 Executions and Exemptions Section 513.607

August 28, 2007

Property subject to forfeiture--procedure--report required, when, contents-annual state auditor's report, contents--violations, penalty.

513.607. 8. The prosecuting attorney or attorney general to whom the seizure is reported shall report annually by January thirty-first for the previous calendar year all seizures. Such report shall include the date, time, and place of seizure, the property seized, the estimated value of the property seized, the person or persons from whom the property was seized, the criminal charges filed, and the disposition of the seizure, forfeiture and criminal actions. The report shall be made to the director of the Missouri department of public safety and shall be considered an open record. The prosecuting attorney or attorney general shall submit a copy of the report to the state auditor at the time the report is made to the director of the department of public safety.

- 9. The state auditor shall make an annual report compiling the data received from law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys and the attorney general, and shall submit the report regarding seizures for the previous calendar year to the general assembly annually by February twenty-eighth.
- 10. Intentional or knowing failure to comply with any reporting requirement contained in this section shall be a class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to one thousand dollars.