

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FRANKLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK INCREASES COLLECTION EFFORTS

Between 2005 and 2009, the Franklin County Municipal Court has seen a 52% increase in cases that have been sent to collection going from \$3.6 million in 2005 to \$5.8 million in 2009. "Franklin County Municipal Court Judges are referring more cases to collections and we are very pleased with the results," said Mike Cherry, Collection Manager for the Clerk's Office.

Unpaid court costs and fines affect city, county, and state services. Court costs and fines help provide assistance to victims of crime, indigent defendants, and other vital services. "My office recognizes the economic impact on the City, County, and State when a defendant does not pay their Court-ordered Costs and Fines. Court Costs and Fines are set by law and we are required to collect and disburse all monies as directed by legal mandates," said Lori Tyack, Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk.

"In 2009, our office sent over \$5.8 million work of unpaid dept to collection agencies. As a result, over \$2.5 million was collected from defendants," said Clerk Tyack.

"Building upon our success with Dana and Pariser, Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson and Capital Recovery, we are excited to add a fourth local company to our collections program," said Clerk Tyack.

Locally owned and operated Apelles was selected to join our collections team. "They have a proven track record of excellence and we look forward to working with Apelles as we increase our collection efforts," said Clerk Tyack.