



Labor Department's Wage Division Recovers \$6 Million for Workers

WETHERSFIELD, Sept. 1 – Labor Commissioner Glenn Marshall today announced that investigators with the agency's Division of Wage & Workplace Standards Division recovered more than \$6 million in unpaid wages for Connecticut workers during the fiscal year ending June 30.

"Working men and women in this state are entitled to every dollar of their hard-earned salaries and we are committed to seeing that they receive it," said Commissioner Marshall. "In these economic times, when it is so difficult for so many people to make ends meet, we have a responsibility to protect the workers of Connecticut and ensure that they are paid for the jobs they do."

According to Commissioner Marshall, the Labor Department recovered a total of \$6,075,682.77 in legally due wages for employees during the past fiscal year. This included \$3,351,993 recovered by wage enforcement staff responding to 2,483 complaints that owed wages had not been paid. The division returned \$1,480,566 to 2,628 workers who were not paid for overtime or the minimum wage and also recovered \$1,235,704 by enforcing the state's prevailing wage laws. An additional \$7,428 was recouped in back pay owed to service workers hired by private contractors.

Violations of prevailing wage laws were determined after investigators conducted 94 payroll audits and made 42 site inspections. A total of 776 employees received owed wages as the result of non-payment of prevailing wage rates.

The unit also investigated 380 cases that resulted in violations issued in the following areas: personnel files, hours of labor, night work of minors, prohibited employment of minors, working papers/certificates of age, smoking in the workplace, and meal periods.

A total of 159 stop work orders were issued to employers who did not comply with Worker's Compensation requirements. Following on-site investigations, these companies were required to cease work on a construction project until certain workplace regulations were met. In some cases, it was determined that employers misrepresented employees as independent contractors -- a practice that causes an economic disadvantage to other companies.

-more-

"The \$6 million collected by our wage investigators reflects the importance we place on serving the state's workforce and law-abiding employers," Commissioner Marshall said.

Media Contact: Nancy Steffens, Communications Director

MEDIA RELEASE

CT Department of Labor *Communications Office*

-2-

"Our goal is to meet the needs of our workers and strengthen knowledge of our state's labor laws. With more than 160 laws pertaining to the protection of workers' rights, education and outreach is just as vital as enforcement activities."

According to Gary Pechie, Director of the Division of Wage & Workplace Standards, the unit recovered the wages in accordance with General Statutes Title 31, Chapter 557, Part III, and Chapter 558.

#