



April 22, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dana Brueck 608.266.1221
brueckdl@doj.state.wi.us



Cynthia Kaump 608.266.5757
Cynthia.Kaump@wisconsin.gov

Attorney General and State Treasurer Join Forces to Return \$2 Million to Crime Victims

Special Ceremony to Honor Crime Victims' Rights Week April 23rd

(MADISON) Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen and State Treasurer Kurt Schuller together determined there is more than \$2 Million in Unclaimed Property belonging to victims of crimes here in Wisconsin. They decided to raise awareness of those available funds alongside the *Crime Victims Council* at a special ceremony during *Crime Victims' Rights Week April 21-27*.

"Wisconsin is a leader in championing victims' rights," Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen said. "Part of what's required under Wisconsin law is restitution for those who've become victims of a crime to reimburse them for expenses related to the incident."

"These people have been through a great deal," State Treasurer Kurt Schuller said. "The least we can do is re-unite these survivors with money belonging to them as a result of being victimized. My Deputy Scott Feldt led the charge in this joint effort. We are honored to take part."

"I appreciate Treasurer Schuller highlighting this issue of unclaimed restitution," Van Hollen said. "I encourage everyone's support and awareness as we recognize Wisconsin's commitment to crime victims."

During this year's annual ceremony, staff from the Office of the State Treasurer will be on hand to assist victims in locating unclaimed restitution. The ceremony is hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice and The Wisconsin Crime Victims Council. The *2013 Champion of Victims' Rights Awards* will also be presented.

Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony, April 23, 2013
State Capitol Rotunda (balcony level)
Noon

Wisconsin courts are required to order offenders pay restitution to their victims. The idea is to reimburse them for expenses related to the crime they suffered such as medical bills, damage to property, or in the event a victim dies, funeral expenses to his or her family. Restitution is collected by the courts if neither probation nor prison is ordered. If an offender is incarcerated, the Department of Corrections collects restitution from offenders. The DOC does its best to locate victims for payment. If they cannot, those monies are turned over to the Office of the State Treasurer. Victims often are unaware of funds available to them. You can search for missing money 24/7 online at www.wismissingmoney.com or call 855-375-CASH (2274).

Follow the Wisconsin Department of Justice on Twitter @WisDOJ
Follow the Wisconsin Office of the State Treasurer on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Wordpress - find out more at
www.wismissingmoney.com

