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Oakland briefs

Countywide: Felon effort boosts revenue

A pilot program at the Oakland Circuit Court to increase collections in criminal felony cases raised an additional \$376,000 in its first six months of operation. In the first six months of this year, the effort took in \$3,567,200, compared with the \$3,191,114 collected in fines, fees, costs and other obligations imposed by the court on convicted felons in the first six months of 2007. Defendants are instructed to come to sentencing prepared to pay all their costs; those who do not are required to attend a hearing to explain their nonpayment, with the possibility of facing contempt charges. Fifty percent of all collections go to crime victims where restitution is ordered and the rest to state and local costs and court-appointed attorney fees.