



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**BAD CHECK UNIT REACHES MILESTONE**

The Bad Check Unit of the Shasta County District Attorney's Office reached a significant milestone at the end of June 2008 when they reached over \$3,000,000 in restitution to merchants through the bad check diversion program. The unit, which was started in 1994, paid its first \$1 million in restitution to Shasta County businesses in October, 2001, seven years after the unit's inception. In June 2005, the second million was collected in about half that time, three years and eight months. This third million was collected in 3 years.

The continuing success of the bad check unit is due, in part, to increased efficiency and the hard work of the two employees who work the unit. The unit's website can be located at <http://da.co.shasta.ca.us>.

The bad check enforcement program is available to merchants and private citizens in Shasta County who receive a check that has non-sufficient funds or is written on a closed account. Writing a check knowing there are non-sufficient funds is a crime. However, bad check writers can avoid prosecution by making full restitution of the check amount and the bank charges and attending a money management class provided by the District Attorney's office. The service provided by the District Attorney's bad check unit is FREE to the victims. Fees charged to the bad check writers pay for the cost of the program.

The bad check program is used by many merchants in Shasta County. The Redding Grocery Outlet is one such business. In a letter received from this business they state that "They (the bad check unit) somehow collect on checks that we have given up on....They (bad check writers) should learn a lesson, that if you write a bad check in Shasta County, you will be caught and pay the check, plus fees." In an e-mail from another business, Pam at United Rentals states that "I firmly believe our Shasta Co. DA's (bad check) unit is the best there is."

For further questions, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito at 245-6310 or the Bad Check Unit supervisor Sally Bates at 245-6335.