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**DOJ Fines and Fees Package**

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**From :** Office of the Assistant Attorney  
General (CRT)  
<CRT.OAAG@usdoj.gov>

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 1 attachment

**Subject :** DOJ Fines and Fees Package

Dear Colleagues:

In December of last year, the Department of Justice brought together judges, court administrators, advocates, prosecutors, and defense attorneys to participate in a working session on "Poverty and the Criminal Justice System: The Effect and Fairness of Fees and Fines."

The Department's working session was followed the next day by a meeting at the White House on "A Cycle of Incarceration: Prison, Debt, and Bail Practices." These extraordinary [convenings](#) raised many critical issues, and highlighted several promising ideas and strategies for reform.

At the end of the meetings, the Department pledged to continue working with the diverse communities represented to help address the complex challenges the assessment and enforcement of fines and fees pose. We are pleased to announce today several initiatives that will help stakeholders make the changes needed to guarantee equal justice under law to everyone, regardless of their financial circumstances.

- The Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance will be awarding [\\$2.5 million in competitive grants](#) to state, local, or tribal jurisdictions, who together with community partners, want to test strategies to restructure the assessment and enforcement of fines and fees through the *Price of Justice: Rethinking the Consequences of Justice Fines and Fees* grant program. Four grants of \$500,000 will be awarded to agencies and their collaborative partners to develop strategies that promote appropriate justice system responses, including reducing unnecessary confinement for individuals who are unable to pay



Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Justice Programs

Vanita Gupta  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

Lisa Foster  
Director  
Office for Access to Justice

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