



**The Office Of
State Treasurer
Denise L. Nappier**

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2012

**STATE TREASURY'S RETURN OF
UNCLAIMED PROPERTY SETS ALL-TIME HIGH**
Largest claim ever paid in the history of the program

Hartford, CT -- State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier announced today that her office returned a record-setting \$83.5 million to rightful owners of unclaimed assets during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, which shattered 2011's record high of \$51.9 million. This historic payout was due in large part to a claim for \$32.8 million -- the largest single claim for unclaimed property in the State's history.

"We've had two consecutive record-breaking years, helping over 36,000 people claim more than \$135 million. We take seriously our commitment to safeguard these unclaimed assets until the rightful owners step forward, and when they do, one of the best aspects of my job as Treasurer is to give their money back," said Treasurer Nappier.

The largest single claim of \$32.8 million was for proceeds from the sale of 1,259,925 shares of stock received by the Treasury in the name of one person. The owner, who has asked to remain anonymous, was listed on the Treasury's Unclaimed Property website, www.CTBigList.com, and the owner's broker of record contacted the Treasury to make a claim. "While our state government is in the midst of fiscal challenges, we are duty-bound to return money belonging to others -- even when it amounts to millions of dollars," said Treasurer Nappier. "We remain a safe haven for unclaimed property until claimed," she added.

Since Nappier took office in 1999, the Treasury's Unclaimed Property Division returned in excess of \$362 million to nearly 210,000 individuals, businesses and organizations. And, there has been a significant increase in the property returned to claimants since 2006. During the first seven years of her administration from 1999 to 2005, \$79 million was returned to 80,472 rightful owners; during the last seven years from 2006 to 2012, \$283 million was returned to 128,604 rightful owners.

Treasurer Nappier stated: "The dramatic rise in the number of people stepping forward to claim what is theirs is a testament to our work to create a user-friendly website – with the ability to search and download claim forms from the website 24 hours a day 7 days a week – and intensified efforts to reunite citizens with their money through biannual CT Big List publications of names and various outreach events."

In response to the publications on October 29, 2009 and November 17, 2011, the Treasury received:

- over 1.1 million searches on the Treasury website, www.CTBigList.com;
- 147,914 claims filed; and
- 86,196 telephone calls to the toll free number, 1-800-833-7318.

These numbers surpass all previous initiatives undertaken by the Treasury to reunite rightful owners with their property. Unclaimed property includes dormant savings and checking accounts, uncashed checks, utility deposits, securities and other financial assets that have been unclaimed for a period of generally three years and turned over to the State Treasurer for safekeeping.

Efforts to Collect Unclaimed Property Continue

The Treasury continued its efforts to collect unclaimed property so that it can be held in custody until rightful owners and heirs come forward. During Fiscal Year 2012, the Unclaimed Property Division collected \$96 million in unclaimed property for deposit into the State's general fund -- which exceeds budgeted projections by more than \$11 million.

Holders of unclaimed property include businesses and organizations that hold dormant savings and checking accounts; uncashed checks; stocks; and other financial assets. Connecticut law allows the State Treasurer to liquidate abandoned securities upon receipt and deposit proceeds from the sale directly into the general fund.

More Money Available to be Claimed – Check the CT Big List!!!

The Treasury's interactive website lists the names of more than 1.1 million owners that may be entitled to as much as \$596 million in unclaimed assets. This includes nearly 1 million owners who may be entitled to \$10,000 or less; 5,800 owners who may have between \$10,000 and \$50,000; 450 owners entitled to properties valued between \$50,000 and \$100,000; and 172 owners with property valued over \$100,000. The website features a searchable database – updated with new names weekly – that makes it easy for owners to find their names.

Both searching and claiming property through the Treasurer's Office is free of charge. There are two ways to initiate a claim for unclaimed assets that may belong to you: Either go to the Treasury's website www.CTBigList.com and download a claim form or call 1-800-833-7318, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

#