



**Lackawanna County District Attorney**  
**Bad Check Restitution Program**  
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**Andy Jarbola**  
District Attorney

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Lackawanna County District Attorney Andrew J. Jarbola III Announces Major Restitution Milestone for The Bad Check Restitution Program**

Lackawanna County District Attorney Andrew Jarbola announced today that his Bad Check Restitution Program has returned over \$250,000 in restitution to local merchants and individuals victimized by bad check losses. The Lackawanna County District Attorney's Bad Check Program started in the Spring of 2003.

District Attorney Jarbola stated "From its inception, the bad check program was designed to aid local businesses, especially small businesses, by providing a more effective means to recoup restitution and seek accountability for offenders. To date, the program has been a tremendous success". Bad checks affect everyone in terms of costs that must be paid to offset losses as well as the costs involved in law enforcement and prosecution. Jarbola further said: "The Bad Check Restitution Program was created with two important goals in mind: First, to return to victims that which is rightfully theirs and second, to increase accountability of those who pass bad checks without increasing the administrative or financial burden to the criminal justice system."

This is being accomplished through a unique, cooperative effort combining private and public sector resources to educate businesses in preventative check acceptance measures and requiring bad check offenders to complete a special intervention class in addition to paying full restitution. The classes serve as reinforcement that offenders must be held more accountable and in Lackawanna County the classes are working. Program figures from the past year in Lackawanna County show that once the offender has completed the program, including attending the class, less than 1% repeat the crime.

No tax dollars are used to operate the program. Furthermore, the program is free to merchants and individuals to use as needed and victims receive 100% of the restitution recovered by the program.

For further information about the Bad Check Restitution Program or to request a crime report form or program brochure, please call toll free 800-831-6623 or visit either the District Attorney's website at [www.lackawannada.com](http://www.lackawannada.com) or the Bad Check Program website at [www.checkprogram.com/lackawannacountypa](http://www.checkprogram.com/lackawannacountypa).

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