

## State of Texas v. \$6,040.00 U.S. Currency & 117 Doak Street Taylor Texas

On January 19, 2010 the Williamson County District Attorney's office concluded an asset forfeiture case involving a house located in Taylor Texas. The asset forfeiture case arose out of a criminal investigation initiated by the Williamson County Sheriff's Department in 2007. It was determined that Benito Saucedo Hernandez was importing cocaine from Mexico to Williamson



County. Further investigation revealed that Hernandez used drug proceeds to purchase houses in the Taylor area and remodel them in an attempt to launder the money. In June of 2007 Hernandez purchased a house located at 117 Doak Street in Taylor Texas and as had been the case before, he began remodeling the home, ultimately moving into the house himself. The investigation, which also involved the Department of Public Safety, the Drug Enforcement Administration and

the Round Rock Police Department, resulted in the arrest of nine individuals including Hernandez who was indicted in federal court for conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine. A search warrant served on the Doak Street house produced \$6,040.00 in cash and a firearm. The Williamson County District Attorney's office subsequently filed a *Notice of Seizure and Intended Forfeiture* seeking to forfeit the house and the cash. On January 19, 2010 Williamson County District Judge Ken Anderson signed an *Order on Motion for Summary Judgment* finding that the house and cash were proceeds gained from the commission of a felony prohibited by the Controlled Substances Act and ordered their forfeiture under Chapter 59 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The District Attorney's office is now working with Gaston and Sheehan Auctioneers to sell the house, the proceeds of which will be administered for the benefit of law enforcement in accordance with and by local agreement as well as Chapter 59 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.