



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANOTHER DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE AT LEAST 100 KILOS OF COCAINE IN MID-MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that another defendant was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a scheme to distribute large quantities of powder and crack cocaine and launder drug money in mid-Missouri since 1998. He is among 15 defendants indicted by a federal grand jury in a conspiracy alleged to have brought more than 100 kilos of cocaine into Columbia, Mo.

Of the 15 defendants charged in the conspiracy, Graves said, 12 defendants have now been sentenced among 13 defendants who have entered guilty pleas. One defendant is now deceased. The conspiracy to which the defendants admitted, Graves explained, involved purchasing cocaine from a source in Texas, then transporting it to Missouri for distribution in the Columbia area between January 1998 and September 21, 2001.

Demetrius Darnez Key, 25, an inmate in state custody, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to 30 years in federal prison without parole for conspiracy to distribute and to possess with the intent to distribute at least five kilograms of cocaine, and 10 years in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The court ordered the two sentences to run concurrently.

On Dec. 13, 2002, **Demetrius Key** pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to distribute and to possess with the intent to distribute at least five kilograms of cocaine, and to one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Demetrius Key** admitted that he worked for his brother, co-defendant **Charles Key Jr.**, delivering and storing powder and crack cocaine and carrying money to Texas to purchase kilos of powder cocaine for shipment to and distribution at Columbia, Mo., and elsewhere. **Demetrius Key** also admitted his involvement in distributing crack cocaine, Graves said.

Demetrius Key also admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun on March 9, 2001, near Columbia. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for a convicted felon to possess any firearm or ammunition. **Demetrius Key** has 1993 criminal felony convictions for delivery of a controlled substance and robbery in Callaway County, Mo.

ADDITIONAL DEFENDANTS

Not all of the defendants are charged in every count of the federal indictment, which includes four separate but related conspiracy charges, two criminal forfeiture counts, and 26 various substantive charges.

Charles Key, Jr. 28, was sentenced to 30 years in prison without parole on the distributing cocaine charge and 20 years in prison without parole on the money laundering count on September 27, 2002. The two sentences will be served concurrently. **Charles Key, Jr.** pleaded guilty on April 26, 2002, to conspiring with others to distribute and to possess with the intent to distribute five kilos or more of cocaine. **Charles Key, Jr.** also pleaded guilty to conspiring with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking.

Desmond Fontaine Turner, 23, was sentenced on November 15, 2002, to 19 years and seven months in prison without parole for conspiring with others to distribute at least 50 grams of crack cocaine in Boone County from about January 1998 to September 21, 2001. **Turner** was also sentenced, in a separate case, to 10 years in prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Those sentences are concurrent. **Turner** pleaded guilty to both of those charges on May 24, 2002.

Juan Marcel Hord, 30, of Columbia, was sentenced on November 15, 2002, to 15 years and eight months in prison without parole. **Hord** pleaded guilty on April 19, 2002, to one count of conspiring to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute at least 50 grams of crack cocaine between January 1998 and September 21, 2001.

Zachary Cornelius Warfield, 29, was sentenced to 10 years in prison without parole, to run concurrent to a 31-month sentence he is currently serving. **Warfield** pleaded guilty on May 24, 2002 to Count One of the federal indictment, which alleges that he conspired with others to distribute at least five kilos of cocaine in Boone County between January 1998 and September 21, 2001.

Wayne Darnell Allen, 26, of Columbia, was sentenced to 10 years in prison without parole. **Allen** pleaded guilty on April 26, 2002, to conspiring with others to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute at least 50 grams of crack; and to conspiring with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking. **Allen** also pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm despite having been previously convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

Byron D. Ballinger, 43, of Columbia, Mo., was sentenced on November 15, 2002, to eight years and four months in prison without parole. **Ballinger** pleaded guilty on June 19, 2002,

to two counts of the federal indictment, which alleges that he distributed and possessed with the intent to distribute crack cocaine in Boone County on July 20, 2000 and on July 27, 2000.

Ellis Orlando Ford, 49, of Centralia, Mo., was sentenced to five years and three months in prison without parole. **Ford** pleaded guilty on May 24, 2002 to Count Fourteen of the federal indictment, which alleges that he conspired with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking.

Rhonda Kaye White, 44, of Houston, Texas, was sentenced on November 15, 2002, to five years and three months in prison without parole. **White** pleaded guilty on May 24, 2002 to one count of the federal indictment, which alleges that she conspired with others to distribute at least 5 kilos of cocaine in Boone County between January 1998 to September 21, 2001. **White** also pleaded guilty to a second count of the federal indictment, which alleges that she conspired with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking.

Sheila Michelle Jeys, 36, and **Kimberly R. Black**, 27, both of Columbia, were each sentenced to two years and six months in prison without parole for conspiring with others to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute at least five kilos of cocaine. They were also sentenced to two years and six months in prison without parole for conspiring with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking. The court ordered those sentences to be served concurrently. **Jeys** and **Black** each pleaded guilty to those charges on April 19, 2002.

Summer Rae Mills, 23, of Columbia, Mo., was sentenced on Dec. 13, 2002, to one year and one day in prison without parole for conspiring with others to distribute at least five kilos of cocaine in Boone County between January 1998 to September 21, 2001 and to conspiracy to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking. **Mills** pleaded guilty on May 24, 2002 .

Lashawna Renee Broadus, 23, of Columbia, pleaded guilty on April 26, 2002, to using the mails between Houston, Texas, and Columbia, Missouri, with the intent to facilitate the promotion of an unlawful activity – that is, to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute cocaine. **Broadus** also pleaded guilty to distribution and possession with intent to distribute at least five grams of crack.

Travis Lamont Crump, 25, of Columbia, is now deceased.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group (MUSTANG), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Boone County Sheriff's Department, Columbia Police Department, Boonville Police Department, Fulton Police Department, the Jefferson City, Police Department, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the Houston, Texas, Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow