



# Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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## **BAKERSFIELD MEDICAL POT DISPENSARY EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY**

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that TIMOTHY DOOLITTLE, 40, of Bakersfield, Calif. pleaded guilty today to conspiring to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute approximately 188 pounds of marijuana from September 2004 to July 16, 2007.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Karen A. Escobar, who is prosecuting the case, during the conspiracy, DOOLITTLE worked for co-defendants DAVID CHAVEZ Jr., and DAVID CHAVEZ Sr., manager and owner, respectively, of Natures Medicinal Inc., a medical marijuana dispensary formerly operating at 323 Roberts Lane in Bakersfield. Natures Medicinal shut down in July 2007, after narcotic agents executed a search warrant there.

DOOLITTLE has been in custody since his arrest in July 2007 because he is determined to be a danger to the community based, in part, on three prior felony drug convictions, a history relating to drug abuse, and a significant prior criminal record. He faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a fine of \$1 million, and a term of supervised release for at least three years. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

DOOLITTLE is scheduled to be sentenced on January 26, 2009, at 9 a.m. before Chief U.S. District Judge Anthony W. Ishii.

DOOLITTLE's seven co-defendants, including DAVID CHAVEZ Jr. and Sr., are next scheduled to appear in federal court on March 23, 2009.

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