

# U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Illinois

A. Courtney Cox, U.S. Attorney

April 2009



## A Message from the U.S. Attorney

### METH

Law enforcement, prosecutors, and others continue to fight a battle against methamphetamine manufacture and use in our District. We are not alone. This is a problem throughout our nation. Just when we think we have a handle on this problem, it rears its ugly head again. We must renew and increase our efforts to combat this deadly enemy.

Meth is not only a problem for the user, but also for others.

As you can imagine, all the toxic chemicals used in the meth manufacturing process take a toll on the environment. Every pound of meth made can generate up to five pounds of toxic waste that may seep into the soil and groundwater. The manufacturing process also generates toxic fumes. These fumes can severely harm anyone exposed to them. Meth labs also generate highly explosive gases.

Meth also has a very serious impact on children. Many children are rescued from homes with meth labs or meth-using parents. Meth, chemicals, and syringes are all within reach of these children. Parents high on meth neglect their children; and the mental, physical, and emotional consequences for these drug-endangered children are often severe.

Millions of our tax dollars are

spent each year to clean up meth labs, to care for drug-endangered children, and to pay for law enforcement to deal with the meth problem.

Our office is co-sponsoring two important events concerning meth.

The first event is the **Southern Illinois Methamphetamine and Other Drugs Awareness Conference** to be held at John A. Logan College in Carterville on April 21 and 22. This is a great program for law enforcement, prosecutors, health care professionals, social workers, educators, and others who want to increase their knowledge of the problem and participate in the search for a solution. If you plan to attend you must preregister by April 13 at [www.jalc.edu/cbi](http://www.jalc.edu/cbi) or call 618-985-2828.

The second event is the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Metro-East Meth and Other Drugs Conference** to be held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville on April 29 and 30. Registration deadline is April 22. You may register by calling 618-346-3616.

I attended both these events last year and was impressed by the quality of these programs. I urge you to attend and become part of the solution to this terrible problem.

*A. Courtney Cox*

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### Link to our website:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ils/index.html>

*Benton Office:*  
402 West Main St., Suite 2A  
Benton, IL 62812  
Phone: (618) 439-3808  
Fax: (618) 439-2401

*East St. Louis Office:*  
750 Missouri Avenue  
East St. Louis, IL 62201  
Phone: (618) 482-9361  
Fax: (618) 482-9302

*Fairview Heights Office:*  
Nine Executive Drive  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
Phone: (618) 628-3700  
Fax: (618) 628-3730

**March 13 and April 2, 2009:** LECC Ron Shownes coordinated two different presentations for Special Agents from the Union Pacific Railroad Police. The LECC made a presentation on the Anti-Terrorism Infrastructure Issue for the railroad and Assistant United States Attorneys Andrew R. Simonson and James E. Crowe, III, both gave a presentation on search and seizure pertaining to railroad police and theft from interstate commerce.



AUSA James E. Crowe, III (left) and AUSA Andrew R. Simonson (right) give presentations on search and seizure.

**March 31, 2009:** LECC Ron Shownes helped coordinate and participated in Operation Kid Safe along with Agents Christopher Williams and Derek Davis of the United States Secret Service, Agent Kim Singer of the IRS, and six volunteers from the Saline County Sheriff's Department. The Operation was held at Southeastern Illinois College outside Harrisburg, Illinois. During the child fair we were able to fingerprint and photograph 140 children.



Operation Kid Safe was held at Southeastern Illinois College. Fingerprinting and photographing were offered.

**April 15, 2009:** Project Safe Childhood will conduct a First Responder Training at the Four Points Sheraton in Fairview Heights, Illinois, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The program is being hosted by the United States Attorney's Offices for the Southern District of Illinois and the Eastern District of Missouri and presented by Fox Valley Technical College. This is an on-line registration. Please see information below to register.

1. Go to the website: <https://www.fvtc.edu/apps/mytraining/Public/Home.aspx>
2. If the student has already created an account, skip this step. If not, enter your social security number (or National ID #) and requested information. This will generate a student ID number that is necessary to register for all our classes going forward.
3. Log onto the "My Training" registration portal using the student ID number or SSN and your password.
4. Ensure that all your personal information is correct. It is imperative that we have both a phone number and an e-mail address. Without both, we cannot complete the registration process.
5. Click on "Register" on the left hand side of the screen.
6. Enter class number and hit "Submit." The class number for this program is: **35539**.
7. Click on the "Register All" button under the listing.
8. Fill out the form. In the Approving Authority section, be sure to enter the information for the student's supervisor or whoever is approving the student's attendance at this training from the student's agency.
9. Registrants need to select their Task Force authority as well. Please select your Task Force from the list.
10. Click "Submit" at the bottom of the page.

If you have any questions related to this class, please feel free to contact:

Vicki O'Brien  
Program Specialist  
Internet Crimes Against Children Training & Technical Assistance Program  
Fox Valley Technical College c/o University of New Hampshire  
10 West Edge Drive  
Durham, NH 03824  
(603) 862-3846 – direct (877) 798-7682 - toll free (603) 862-2477 - facsimile  
[vicki.obrien@unh.edu](mailto:vicki.obrien@unh.edu) [www.icctraining.org](http://www.icctraining.org)



**April 16 and 17, 2009:** Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute is hosting a seminar on "Terrorist Use of IED's; Potential Impact on American Communities" on two different dates and locations.

- April 16, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Marriott Hotel, 50 N. Martingale Road, Schaumburg, Illinois.
- April 17, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Four Points Sheraton, 319 Fountains Parkway, Fairview Heights, Illinois.
- Register online at [www.iletsbei.com](http://www.iletsbei.com) or complete the registration form attached to this flyer. Tuition is \$50 per person with lunch provided.

## Upcoming LECC Activities, continued



**Choose Your Preferred Date and Location!**

**April 16, 2009**

Marriott Hotel  
50 N. Martingale Rd.  
Schaumburg, IL  
9 am – 4 pm

**April 17, 2009**

Four Points Sheraton  
319 Fountains Pkwy.  
Fairview Heights, IL  
9 am – 4 pm

Register online at [www.iletsbei.com](http://www.iletsbei.com) or complete the registration form attached to this flyer. Tuition is \$50 per person with lunch provided.

Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute

# Terrorist Use of I.E.D.'s

## Potential Impact on American Communities

### Keynote Speaker

**FBI Special Agent Stephen Veyera**

**Liaison Officer to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
National Protection and Program Directorate  
Office of Infrastructure Program**

The National Protection and Programs Directorate advances the Department's risk-reduction mission. Reducing risk requires an integrated approach that encompasses both physical and virtual threats and their associated human elements. A program of the NPPD, Office of Infrastructure Program leads the coordinated national effort to reduce risk to our critical infrastructures and key resources posed by acts of terrorism. In doing so, the Department increases the nation's level of preparedness and the ability to respond and quickly recover in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other emergency.

### U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office for Bombing Prevention

DHS Office for Bombing Prevention will address the program **TRIPwire** (Technical Resource for Incident Prevention), which serves the bombing prevention community as a consolidated and expert-validated resource of near real-time information on improvised explosives and IEDs, relevant news, and threat alerts.

### Improvised Explosive Devices, Insurgency Warfare and U.S. National Security

**Burl Self, PhD, George Mason University**

Moderated by Dr. Self, a panel of subject matter experts will discuss the role of local, state, and federal governments in countering insurgency and terrorist operations. Self recently stated, "IEDs have been affecting the way we fight war. This panel will cover all aspects of these devices — what they are, how we recognize them and emerging technologies. The United States is spending billions of dollars to defeat IEDs. In war, the simpler you are, the harder you are to defeat." Members of the panel include:

*Jason Burr, former Special Forces soldier for the U. S. Army*

*Jason Hardie, Sergeant USMC*

*Walid Majroh, former General and Commander,*

*Kuner Valley, Afghanistan Mujahideen*

*Jose R. Ramos, USN Petty Officer 2/C (Retired)*



ILETSB Executive Institute  
Western Illinois University · 1 University Circle · Macomb, IL 61455  
(309) 298-2646 Phone · (309) 298-2642 Fax  
This project is supported by Homeland Security funds awarded to the  
Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force.

Upcoming LECC Activities, continued



Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute

Terrorist Use of I.E.D.'s
Potential Impact on American Communities

Secure online registration is available at www.iletsbei.com
or complete this form and fax to (309) 298-2642.

Registration Deadline: April 3, 2009

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$50 per person (lunch provided)

Select Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Schaumburg, IL (April 16, 2009)

\_\_\_\_\_ Fairview Heights, IL (April 17, 2009)

Payment Methods: \_\_\_\_\_ Check (Payable to ILETSB Executive Institute)

\_\_\_\_\_ Purchase Order (PO must be faxed with Registration form)

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Select Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Discover

Credit Card Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT LEGIBLY

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Pin Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (3-digit number on back of card)

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (REQUIRED): \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant Information (Additional registrations may be submitted on a separate sheet of paper)

Registrant 1

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant 2

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant 3

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax completed registration form to (309) 298-2642

**Upcoming LECC Activities, continued**



**Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute**

***Terrorist Use of I.E.D.'s  
Potential Impact on American Communities***

**Registration Fee**

The *Terrorist Use of IEDs: Potential Impact on American Communities* fee of \$50 includes lunch. Lodging, transportation, and any other meals are the expense of the participant or sponsoring agency.

**Registration Confirmation**

For online registrations, immediate e-mail confirmation will be sent. Registrations received by mail or fax will receive e-mail confirmation of conference registration within three business days of receiving the registration. If you do not receive confirmation, please call (309) 298-2646 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. CST).

**Cancellation Policy**

Written cancellations received before April 9, 2009 will be accepted subject to a service charge of \$25. Subsequent cancellations are liable for the full conference registration fee. All cancellations must be received in writing by fax to (309) 298-2642 by April 9, 2009. All refunds processed prior to April 9, 2009 will be issued approximately two weeks after the *Terrorist Use of IEDs: Potential Impact on American Communities* Conference. Confirmation of the cancellation will be emailed within three business days of receiving the cancellation. If you do not receive confirmation, please call (309) 298-2646 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. CST).

**Substitution Policy**

Substitutions will be accepted until April 9, 2009. Refunds will not be issued to persons unable to attend. Please fax substitutions with the name of the original registrant and the substitute to (309) 298-2642. Confirmation of the substitution will be emailed or faxed within three business days of receipt. If you do not receive confirmation, please call (309) 298-2646 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. CST).

**Questions?**

Contact the ILETSB Executive Institute at (309) 298-2646 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. CST) or by email at [registrar@iletsbei.com](mailto:registrar@iletsbei.com).

**April 21 and 22, 2009:** The 6th Annual Southern Illinois Methamphetamine and Other Drugs Awareness Conference will be held at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois.



**Sixth Annual  
Southern Illinois  
Methamphetamine  
and Other Drugs  
Awareness Conference  
April 21st & 22nd, 2009  
John A. Logan College  
Carterville, Illinois**

**Event Sponsors:**

John A. Logan College  
Williamson County Coalition Against Meth Abuse  
Southern Illinois Healthcare  
The H Group (formerly Franklin-Williamson Human Services)  
Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan  
United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois  
Herrin Hospital-Mission and Values Fund  
Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities  
Illinois Department of Human Services—  
Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse  
Comit Drug Task Force

**Conference Hotels:**

**Fairfield Inn & Suites, 1400 Halfway Road, Marion, Illinois (618) 993-3011**  
**Holiday Inn Express, 400 Comfort Drive, Marion, Illinois (618) 998-1220**  
**Seating is limited! Pre-registration required by April 13, 2009!**  
**On-line registration at: [www.jalc.edu/cbi](http://www.jalc.edu/cbi)**

For more information, please call John A. Logan College at (618) 985-2828 ext. 8510  
Or e-mail [cbi@jalc.edu](mailto:cbi@jalc.edu)

**Upcoming LECC Activities, continued**

**April 29 and 30, 2009:** The 4th Annual Metro East Meth and Other Drugs Conference will be held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois.

# Save The Date!

**APRIL 29 & 30, 2009**

## 4th ANNUAL METRO EAST Meth + Other Drugs Conference

**Triangle of Hope**  
PREVENTION TREATMENT ENFORCEMENT

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows  
Belleville, Illinois

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Internationally acclaimed speaker  
**Dr. Ira Chasnoff**  
(Children's Research Triangle)

**TOPICS**  
Current Drug Trends  
Developing Multi-Agency Response Teams  
Illinois Meth Project  
Pseudo Tracking  
Meth Mouth  
Women's Substance Abuse Treatment  
The Meth Home Crisis  
Domestic Violence Issues  
Prenatal Exposure to Drugs and more...

**GREAT PRICE**  
**\$20**

For more information Call Tara Winters  
618-583-2116

CEU's will be available.

This conference is sponsored by MECAM+  
(Metro East Coalition Against Meth + Other Drugs)

**JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD  
Federal, State, and Local Officials  
Addressed Law Enforcement Concerns  
of Late Night East St. Louis Clubs**

A joint press conference of federal, state, and local officials was held on March 19, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. The press conference was held at the Clyde Jordan Senior Center in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Joining United States Attorney A. Courtney Cox was St. Clair County State's Attorney Robert Haida, United States Marshal Don Slazinik, St. Clair County Sheriff Mearl Justus, Captain Mark Bramlett of the Illinois State Police, the Rev. Johnny Scott, President of the East St. Louis Chapter of the NAACP, and Dr. Levi King, Sr., Chairperson of the Community Action Task Force.

Nightclubs within the city limits of East St. Louis are currently permitted to remain open all night. The City of East St. Louis is currently examining the issue of whether this situation should continue. East St. Louis City Manager Robert Betts was recently quoted as saying, "We're kind of looking at shutting down at the same time as St. Louis. Quite often, when St. Louis closes, we get all of the traffic from St. Louis. A majority of them are already intoxicated, and they come here and get further intoxicated." He is correct. We met to say that we wholeheartedly support Mr. Betts' statement.

We are convinced that the closing of the East St. Louis clubs at the same time of the night as the St. Louis clubs will significantly reduce crime in East St. Louis and thereby benefit the law-abiding citizens of this city. Large numbers of patrons of St. Louis nightclubs are traveling to East St. Louis after the St. Louis nightclubs close. As a result, violent criminal activity in East St. Louis increases and the number of people driving while intoxicated increases.

Because law enforcement has to deal with the increased criminal activity at these all-night clubs, there are fewer law enforcement resources for the remainder of the city.

This problem is easily fixed. Close the East St. Louis clubs at the same time as the St. Louis clubs. This will significantly reduce the number of persons traveling from Missouri to Illinois after the clubs close in Missouri who require law enforcement intervention in Illinois. This, in turn, will free the police to devote their attention during those hours to the protection of the law-abiding citizens in the remainder of the city. It will also reduce the possibility of injury by drunken drivers.

According to United States Attorney A. Courtney Cox, "Addressing the violent crime issues facing the residents of East St. Louis is a priority for all federal prosecutors in the Southern District of Illinois. I am committed to doing whatever is allowed under the law to assure that the law-abiding citizens of East St. Louis can live their lives free of the threats of becoming victims of violent crime and the negative economic impact that such crime has on the lives of everyone in the entire region."

To the extent that these late night club patrons increase the risk of drug and gun violence in East St. Louis, U.S. Attorney Cox also noted that attacking violent crime that impacts the quality of life in a community remains a Department of Justice priority.

The Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative is designed to remove illegal guns and drugs from our communities. Under the initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and federal and state prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals who use firearms to commit their violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in order to achieve the severest sentence possible. "The United States Attorney's Office and our law enforcement partners from all levels of government will continue to cooperatively pursue the goals of Project Safe Neighborhoods."

## ADMINISTRATION AT THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

I would like to highlight our Administration Division at the U.S. Attorney's Office. All too often we forget that our mission as a United States Attorney's Office would not be possible without the support we receive from our Admin people.

Our Administrative Officer is **Don DeNike**. Don oversees the many different facets of the administration of the office, including contracting, budget, payroll, reception, IT, personnel, property, and other duties. He is assisted by a fine staff who work hard to provide the support we need.

**Corkye Jordan** is our Contracting Officer. She is in charge of procurement of the items we need, plus many other duties. **Julia Crowe** is our Budget Analyst and helps keep us "in the black" and works closely with her counterparts in Washington to make sure we have the funds we need to operate. **Beverly Ripperda** has many duties as Admin Tech, but most importantly makes sure my car is running so I can get back and forth to work.

**Lori Smith** is the voice of our office as the Receptionist. She has many additional duties, including helping publish this newsletter. Systems Manager **Jim Agnes** and IT Specialist **Joyce Voss** keep the technology working and provide valuable assistance with trial presentations. Student Worker **Andre Chambers** is a valued assistant in the many areas of Admin's responsibilities.

While thinking about Admin's contribution to our office, I am reminded of the analogy to an army fighting at the front line. Their efforts would not be possible without the many folks providing supplies and support. The same is true for us. To all of you in Admin, thank you for your hard work and dedication to our mission. Please know that I appreciate what you do.

*A. Courtney Cox*



## RECENT NOTEWORTHY CASES

### BANKRUPTCY AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FRAUD CHARGES

On March 23, 2009, [KEITH A. GARY](#), age 33, of Glen Carbon, Illinois, pled guilty to three counts of bankruptcy fraud before the United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. On January 13, 2009, his co-defendant and former wife, [STACIE M. GARY](#), age 31, also of Glen Carbon, pled guilty to four counts of bankruptcy fraud and one count of unemployment benefits fraud before the same court. Each count of bankruptcy fraud carries a penalty of up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.00, or both. Unemployment benefits fraud carries a penalty of up to twenty years' imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.00, or both.

The sentencing hearing for **STACIE M. GARY** is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on June 12, 2009. **KEITH A. GARY** is scheduled to be sentenced on June 26, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

Specifically, the indictment alleged that the defendants deliberately concealed information on a pending workers' compensation claim from the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Illinois in East St. Louis and the bankruptcy trustee. The indictment also alleged that **STACIE M. GARY** used the United States mail to file false claims for benefits to the Illinois Department of Employment Security during times when she was actually employed.

United States Attorney Cox emphasized, "The United States Attorney's Office takes the issue of bankruptcy fraud seriously and will prosecute those who violate the bankruptcy laws to the fullest extent the law permits. Dishonesty with the court, the Office of the United States Trustee, and the creditors cannot, and will not, be tolerated."

Nancy J. Gargula, the United States Trustee for Indiana and the Central and Southern Districts of Illinois (Region 10) stated, "I am very gratified by the actions taken in this case by United States Attorney Courtney Cox and the members of the Bankruptcy Fraud Working Group for the Southern District of Illinois. The bankruptcy laws make it clear that all property, including pending claims, must be disclosed to the Bankruptcy Court, the trustee, and creditors. These prosecutions demonstrate that debtors who conceal assets will be prosecuted."

The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Office of Inspector General, the Office of Labor Racketeering, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was initiated out of the Southern District of Illinois' Bankruptcy Fraud Working Group, which is coordinated by Assistant United States Attorney Gerald M. Burke, and which includes representatives of the Office of the United States Attorney; Office of the United States Trustee; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation; and the Postal Investigation Service.

The prosecutions of these defendants are being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Liam Coonan and Special Assistant United States Attorney Mark D. Skaggs, of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the United States Trustee in Peoria.

### COCAINE

On March 18, 2009, [MAURICE S. HAMILTON](#), age 27, of Lovejoy, Illinois, pled guilty to two counts (Counts 1 and 2) of distribution of five

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

grams or more of “crack” cocaine, and one count (Count 3) of possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of “crack” cocaine.

The violations set forth in Counts 1 and 2 occurred on August 3 and August 8, 2007, when **HAMILTON** sold in excess of five grams of cocaine base, in the form commonly known as “crack” cocaine, to a confidential informant for the Drug Enforcement Administration. The violation set forth in Count 3 occurred on August 14, 2007, when **HAMILTON** was stopped by local police officers, at the request of the Drug Enforcement Administration, while **HAMILTON** was heading to a meeting with the confidential informant to sell an additional amount of “crack” cocaine. Over five grams of “crack” cocaine, as well as a small amount of powder cocaine, was recovered from the car in which **HAMILTON** was riding.

Each count carries with it a penalty of a term of imprisonment of not less than five years’ up to 40 years’ imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$2,000,000, or both, and a term of supervised release of at least four (4) years. Sentencing is scheduled for June 22, 2009, in East St. Louis, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

On March 19, 2009, [ODIE L. DONES, JR.](#), age 25, of Mascoutah, Illinois, pled guilty to two counts of distribution of crack cocaine.

Each offense charged carries with it a penalty of a term of imprisonment of not less than five years’ up to 40 years’ imprisonment

and a term of at least four years’ supervised release, and a fine of not more than \$2,000,000.

Sentencing is scheduled for June 29, 2009, in East St. Louis, Illinois.

**DONES** was charged with distributing crack cocaine in St. Clair County, Illinois, on two occasions in December 2006.

The investigation was conducted under the auspices of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. Agencies involved with the investigation include the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel T. Kapsak.

On March 19, 2009, [JORGE URENA MARTINEZ](#), age 28, of Michoacan, Mexico, was sentenced to a term of 120 months’ imprisonment and five years’ supervised release, and was ordered to pay a \$300 fine and a \$100 special assessment. **MARTINEZ** will be subject to deportation following his release from prison.

**MARTINEZ** pled guilty on June 26, 2008, to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distributing cocaine. The offenses occurred between January 2006 and May 2006, in St. Clair County, Illinois. Two co-conspirators have previously pled and been sentenced.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel T. Kapsak.

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

On March 23, 2009, [MADLON S. LADD](#), age 28, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **LADD** was sentenced to 144 months' imprisonment and four years' supervised release, and was fined \$200.

**LADD** was previously convicted following a jury trial of four separate counts. **LADD** was convicted of one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, one count of distribution of crack cocaine, and two counts of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. The offenses occurred between March 2005 and October 24, 2007, in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The Jefferson County States Attorney's Office also assisted in the case.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On April 1, 2009, a federal jury in East St. Louis, Illinois, convicted [KENNETH LAMONT TALTON](#), age 29, of St. Louis, Missouri, on one count of conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute cocaine. The jury returned a special verdict indicating that the amount of cocaine involved was over five kilograms. **TALTON** faces a sentence of ten years' to life imprisonment and at least five years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. Sentencing is scheduled for July 1, 2009.

The investigation was conducted under

the auspices of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the main agencies.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Daniel T. Kapsak and Andrew R. Simonson.

On April 3, 2009, [PATRICK D. THOMAS](#), age 38, of Alton, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **THOMAS** was sentenced to 262 months' imprisonment with credit for 16 months already served eight years' supervised release, and was ordered to pay a \$900 fine.

**THOMAS** had pled guilty on December 31, 2008, to one count of possession with intent to distribute over five grams of crack cocaine. The offense occurred on November 24, 2007, in Alton, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Alton, Illinois Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Safe Streets Task Force, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald S. Boyce.

### ARMED BANK ROBBERY

On March 27, 2009, [JOHN D. BROWN](#), age 65, of Evansville, Indiana, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. **BROWN**, who had previously pled guilty to one count of aiding and abetting armed bank robbery, was sentenced to 150 months' imprisonment and three years' supervised release. **BROWN** was also ordered to pay a \$100 special

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

assessment and restitution in the amount of \$28,380.

The evidence at **BROWN's** plea and sentencing established that on July 20, 2006, **BROWN** and two co-defendants committed an armed robbery at the First Neighbor Bank in Casey, Illinois. The co-defendants have previously been sentenced to prison terms of 499 months and 462 months, respectively, for their roles in this and another armed bank robbery.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Casey Police Department, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the United States Marshals Service pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The Owensboro, Kentucky Police Department and McCracken County Sheriff's Department also participated in the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Amanda A. Robertson and George A. Norwood.

### POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A FELON

On March 27, 2009, [ANTAWON M. CHAIRS](#), age 27, of East St. Louis, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, for unlawful possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon (Count 1) and possession of a sawed-off shotgun (Count 2). **CHAIRS** pled guilty to the offenses on November 17, 2008. **CHAIRS** was sentenced to 120 months' imprisonment on Count 1 and 27 months' imprisonment on Count 2, to run con-

secutively, for a total of 147 months' imprisonment; three years' supervised release on each count; a total fine of \$625.10; and was ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment.

On October 9, 2007, **CHAIRS** was seen in possession of a sawed-off shotgun by a St. Clair County Sheriff's Deputy. While following **CHAIRS**, the deputy heard the shotgun discharge and observed **CHAIRS** hit a pole with his car. **CHAIRS** was arrested immediately afterwards. A sawed-off shotgun and a spent shell casing were recovered from his vehicle. An additional five shotgun shells were recovered from his person. **CHAIRS** admitted possession of the sawed-off shotgun in a videotaped statement to law enforcement officers.

The investigation was conducted by the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, in cooperation with the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office, as part of those agencies' participation in Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nation-wide initiative intended to combat gun and drug crimes.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

### METHAMPHETAMINE

On March 19, 2009, [LARRY G. TINKER](#), age 58, Shobonier, Illinois, pled guilty in the United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to an indictment which charged him with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine.

According to court documents, the conspiracy operated in Fayette County, Illinois, from

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

October 2006 through July 4, 2007, and during that time frame, **TINKER** distributed methamphetamine that his source of supply obtained from Kansas City, Missouri. **TINKER** sometimes provided his source of supply with money to put toward the purchase of methamphetamine and sometimes provided his source of supply with a vehicle for making the trips to Kansas City. The conspiracy ended on July 4, 2007, when Fayette County authorities executed a search warrant at the residence of **TINKER's** source of supply, seized methamphetamine, and arrested the source of supply. The source of supply was later convicted of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and a related charge in federal court.

This investigation, which resulted in this plea, was conducted by the Fayette County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration in cooperation with the Fayette County State's Attorney Stephen Friedel, as part of the Fayette County Project Safe Neighborhoods DRAGUN Team Initiative.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kit R. Morrissey.

On March 26, 2009, [JOE L. BARNHART](#), age 35, of Anna, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. **BARNHART**, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, was sentenced to 78 months' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, and was fined \$400.

The violation took place between January 2006, and April 5, 2008, in Union, Jackson, and Marion Counties in Illinois. Three co-defendants have already received prison terms of 210

months, 100 months, and 63 months, for their role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

The investigation was conducted by the Union County Sheriff's Office, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative for the Southern District of Illinois. The Illinois State Police Methamphetamine Response Team also assisted in the investigation.

The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.

On April 3, 2009, [SHANE J. MORGAN](#), age 35, of Dowell, Illinois, [TEDDY L. BROWN](#), age 36, and [BRADLEY S. HOLLAND](#), age 34, both of Bush, Illinois, were sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. The three co-defendants had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging them with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. **MORGAN** was sentenced to 292 months' imprisonment and five years' supervised release, and was fined \$600. **BROWN** was sentenced to 240 months' imprisonment and ten years' supervised release, and was fined \$600. **HOLLAND** was sentenced to 46 months' imprisonment and three years' supervised release, and was fined \$600.

The evidence at sentencing established that between at least May 2005, and March 31, 2008, **MORGAN, BROWN, HOLLAND**, and others were involved in the manufacture of more than five kilograms of methamphetamine in Jackson and Williamson Counties in Illinois. One co-defendant was previously sentenced to 120 months' imprisonment for his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, COMIT Drug Task Force, Williamson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Illinois State Police, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative for the Southern District of Illinois.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

### CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

On March 12, 2009, [GERALD EDWARD WELLS](#), age 50, of Harrisburg, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. **WELLS** was sentenced to 120 months' imprisonment and five years' supervised release, and was fined \$200.

**WELLS** had previously pled guilty to one count of receipt of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Southern Illinois Cyber Crimes Task Force, which includes representatives of a number of state and local law enforcement agencies, and the Illinois Attorney General's Office Crimes Against Children Task Force. This case is part of Project Safe Childhood, in which the United States Attorney's Office, in conjunction with federal and state law enforcement authorities, is actively investigating and prosecuting individuals who produce, distribute, or possess child pornography.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys George A. Norwood and James M. Cutchin.

### HEROIN

On March 20, 2009, [JARRED CURTIS EVANS](#), age 24, of Centralia, Illinois, and [SHAWN J. PHELPS](#), age 25, of Centralia, Illinois, were sentenced in the United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **EVANS** was sentenced to 235 months' imprisonment and five years' supervised release, and was fined \$200. **PHELPS** was sentenced to 120' months imprisonment and four years' supervised release, and was fined \$300.

Both **EVANS** and **PHELPS** previously pled guilty to a one count indictment which charged that from 2002 to March 4, 2008, **EVANS** and **PHELPS** conspired together to distribute and possess with intent to distribute, heroin, in violation of federal law. The amount of heroin involved in the conspiracy was 100 grams or more.

The investigation was conducted by the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, the Illinois State Police, the Centralia Police Department, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, and the Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The Marion County State's Attorney's Office also assisted during the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George R. Norwood.

### PAYROLL CLERK SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR THEFT FROM VILLAGE

On March 20, 2009, [DOROTHY RICHARDSON TRIPLETT](#), age 38, of Washington Park, Illinois, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment as a result of her conviction for two counts of misapplication of property of the Village of Washington Park, a local government that receives federal funds. **TRIPLETT** was ordered to

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

serve three years supervised release following her release from prison and pay restitution totaling \$143,828.35.

At the sentencing hearing it was determined that **TRIPLETT** during 2006 and 2007, while she was employed as a payroll clerk and assistant to the Mayor's assistant for the Village of Washington Park, embezzled approximately \$143,828.35. It was also determined that she assisted another in embezzling additional funds which caused a total loss of \$513,425.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service/Criminal Investigations, and the Department of Labor, Office of Labor Racketeering.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.

**If you come across evidence of public corruption activities please contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation at (877) U-TIP-OFF.**

On April 3, 2009, [KAY FLOARKE](#), age 52, of Waterloo, Illinois, was sentenced to one year and one day imprisonment and three years' supervised release for the offense of tax evasion. **FLOARKE** was ordered to pay restitution to a victim of the embezzlement in the amount of \$122,771 and restitution to the Internal Revenue Service in the amount of \$40,688.

**FLOARKE** was employed as the office manager for an insurance company and embezzled money from 2002 through 2006. **FLOARKE** failed to disclose her embezzled income on her federal income tax returns. Additionally, as office manager, she prepared false W-2 earnings statements which concealed her embezzled in-

come.

The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, Office of Criminal Investigations.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.

**If you suspect or know of an individual or company that is not complying with the tax laws, you may report this activity by contacting the local Internal Revenue Service/Criminal Investigation Office at (618) 622-2160 or by mailing information to: Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888. Please provide the following information, if available:**

Name and address of the person you are reporting. The taxpayer identification number (social security number for an individual or employer identification number for a business). A brief description of the alleged violation, including how you became aware of or obtained the information. The years involved. The estimated dollar amount of any unreported income, your name, address, and daytime telephone number. *Although you are not required to identify yourself, it is helpful to do so. Your identity can be kept confidential. You may also be entitled to a reward.*

### DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

On March 20, 2009, [EVERLY HATFIELD](#), age 48, of West Virginia, received a life sentence in the United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois.

**HATFIELD**, of Oceana, West Virginia, was convicted on October 30, 2008, following a three and one-half week jury trial. A federal jury found **HATFIELD** guilty of conspiracy to commit phar-

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

macy burglaries (Count 1) and conspiracy to distribute controlled substances with deaths resulting (Count 2). **HATFIELD** received concurrent sentences of ten years on Count 1 and life imprisonment on Count 2.

Approximately 100 witnesses testified for the Government at the trial in October 2008. According to the evidence presented, **HATFIELD** and his brother, Rex Hatfield, led a group which committed about 85 pharmacy burglaries in ten states. Some of these burglaries occurred in small towns in southern Illinois, including Fairfield, Mattoon, Metropolis, Flora, McCleansboro, Eldorado, Herrin, and Harrisburg. The group also committed burglaries at pharmacies in Missouri, including those in Crestwood, St. Charles, Seneca, and St. Joseph.

The **HATFIELD** group stole pain pills such as Oxycontin, morphine patches (fentanyl), and other controlled substances valued at nearly \$500,000 between 1998 and 2004.

Everly and Rex Hatfield transported these stolen pharmaceuticals back to West Virginia and Virginia for sale to dealers who worked with them.

The jury returned special verdict forms which found that drugs distributed by the **HATFIELD** brothers caused the overdose deaths of Deborah Smith of Honaker, Virginia, in 2001; Mark Honaker of Lebanon, Virginia, in 2000; Carol Walker of Glen Fork, West Virginia, in 2002; and Jimmy Dishmon (the Hatfields' brother-in-law) of Oceana, West Virginia, in 2003. The jury also returned a special verdict form which found the **HATFIELD** brothers had provided drugs which caused life-threatening injuries to Richard Ward of Glen White, West Virginia, in 2003.

According to multiple trial witnesses, the

**HATFIELD** brothers suspected that Smith, Walker, and Ward were police informants. Walker died just a week before she was scheduled to testify against Everly Hatfield in West Virginia, on a state charge of unlawful sale of Oxycontin. Witnesses testified at trial that the **HATFIELD** brothers had bragged after Smith and Walker died, claiming that "those who snitch on us tend to wake up dead."

At the time Richard Ward nearly died of a fentanyl overdose, he had been scheduled to testify against the **HATFIELDS** concerning a pharmacy burglary committed in Princeton, West Virginia. Witnesses testified that when Ward collapsed and stopped breathing, Everly Hatfield instructed bystanders, "Don't revive him. Let him die."

Rex Hatfield was previously sentenced to life imprisonment on January 30, 2009.

The four-year investigation which resulted in the convictions of Rex and Everly Hatfield was conducted under the auspices of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Drug Task Force with the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Oceana, West Virginia Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies in Illinois, Virginia, and elsewhere.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert L. Garrison and Nicole E. Gorovsky.

### DISABILITY FRAUD

On March 20, 2009, [JOHN R. LAIRD](#), age 55, of Lenzberg, Illinois, was sentenced to 37 months' imprisonment and three years' supervised release following his conviction for conceal-

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

ing material information from the Social Security Administration. **LAIRD** was also ordered to pay restitution to the Social Security Administration in the amount of \$142,785.40

At the time of his guilty plea in August, 2008, **LAIRD** signed a factual stipulation which indicated that he filed for disability benefits in 1989. **LAIRD** began collecting benefits but failed to report several events to the Social Security Administration, including his criminal convictions and resulting periods of incarceration, his violations of the terms and conditions of his probation and parole, his medical improvement, and his employment activity. Title II disability benefits are based upon an inability to work. Participants in the benefit program have an affirmative duty to advise the Social Security Administration if they return to work, if their medical condition improves, or if they are imprisoned for conviction of a felony.

The case was investigated by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Deirdre A. Durborow.

### FINANCIAL STRUCTURING

On March 23, 2009, **PAUL D. STEINACHER**, age 50, of White Hall, Illinois, pled guilty to an Information charging him with conspiracy to structure financial transactions to evade the currency reporting requirements at one or more financial institution.

The offense charged carries with it a penalty of up to five years' imprisonment and at least three years' supervised release, and a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both. Sentencing

is scheduled for July 10, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., in East St. Louis, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted under the auspices of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. Agencies involved with the investigation include the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ranley R. Killian.

### HEALTH CARE FRAUD

On March 30, 2009, **JAMES PHILLIP DURHAM, M.D.**, age 71, President of **FRANKLIN RURAL HEALTH CARE CLINIC**, an Illinois corporation, doing business in Christopher, in Franklin County, pled guilty to making false statements to a federal health care program. Also today, **FRANKLIN RURAL HEALTH CARE CLINIC** pled guilty to health care fraud. **DURHAM** faces a maximum on year imprisonment and one year supervised release, and a fine of \$100,000. The **FRANKLIN RURAL HEALTH CARE CLINIC** faces a maximum term of five years' probation and a fine of \$500,000. Sentencing for both are scheduled for July 20, 2009.

The charging documents indicate that **DURHAM** instructed clinic employees to bill Medicare and Medicaid for non-covered medical services. Medicare was fraudulently billed for \$42,503.00 from January 1, 2003 through May 31, 2006. During that same time frame, Medicaid was improperly billed \$145,388.46. The total loss amounts to \$187,841.86.

The cases were investigated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General; the Illinois State Police;

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The cases were prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Liam Coonan.

***If you suspect or know of an individual or company that is not complying with healthcare laws or public aid programs, you may report this activity to the local office of the U.S. Department of Health Human Services, Office of Inspector General or call 1-800-447-8477.***

### TAX EVASION AND HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS

On March 31, 2009, [DUO CHEN](#), age 37, and [JUSTIN QIU](#), age 37, both of Herrin, Illinois, were sentenced in federal court in Benton, Illinois, following their convictions for tax evasion and conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens.

**CHEN** was sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment and three years' supervised release, a \$6,000 fine, and was ordered to pay restitution to the United States in the amount of \$228,238. **CHEN** was also ordered to forfeit \$78,000 to the United States

**QIU** was sentenced to five years' probation and ten weekends in jail, a \$10,000 fine, and was ordered to pay restitution to the United States in the amount of \$16,310. **QIU** was also ordered to forfeit \$45,000 to the United States.

**CHEN** and **QIU** pled guilty to the charges on October 28, 2008.

According to factual stipulations filed at the time of the pleas, **CHEN** owned and operated Kew Garden, Inc., a C-Corporation which did business as the Kew Gardens Chinese restaurant located in Herrin, Illinois. **CHEN** skimmed significant amounts of funds from Kew Gardens for his

personal use, and failed to report the income on his personal tax returns. **CHEN** maintained a "black book" which documented the cash skim during the time period of November 2002, through January 2006.

During the investigation, a restaurant manager employed by **CHEN** told authorities that **CHEN** knowingly employed illegal aliens, and that **CHEN** provided housing for them at various locations. Knowing that the manager was an illegal alien, from January 2005, until January 2006, **CHEN** harbored the manager by providing him housing and utilities, representing partial payment of the manager's wages.

**CHEN** shared in the ownership of Southern Grill, Inc. with his brother-in-law, **JUSTIN QIU**. Southern Grill, Inc. operated "Wok N' Roll," a buffet-style restaurant in Marion, Illinois.

On January 23, 2007, federal agents executed search warrants at Kew Gardens; Wok N' Roll; **CHEN's** residence; **QIU's** residence; and 1217 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Agents interviewed **CHEN**, **QIU**, and several of their employees. At **QIU's** residence, agents found a notebook which documented a cash skim and a tax evasion scheme in connection with the operation of Wok N' Roll. Three illegal aliens were arrested at an apartment rented by **CHEN**. Two were employed at Kew Gardens and one worked at Wok N' Roll. Eight illegal aliens were arrested at a house owned by **CHEN**. Six worked at Kew Gardens and two worked at Wok N' Roll.

From approximately March 2004, through April 2006, **CHEN** and **QIU** conspired to defraud the United States by evading taxes. **CHEN** and **QIU** had an agreement that they would skim large sums of cash obtained from the operation of Wok N' Roll, while concealing the receipt of that cash from the IRS and their ac-

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

countants. **CHEN** and **QIU** also agreed to conceal the correct dollar total of sales or gross receipts from their accountant and the IRS. **CHEN** and **QIU** recorded the correct dollar total of sales and gross receipts in handwritten journals and met with each other at the end of the month for the purpose of diverting cash to themselves. For the tax years 2004 and 2005, **CHEN** and **QIU** caused others to prepare and file false tax returns with the IRS on behalf of Southern Grill, Inc.

Between March 2004, and January 2006, **CHEN** and **QIU** conspired to harbor illegal aliens. Representing partial compensation for their employment, **CHEN** and **QIU** harbored these illegal aliens, paying their utilities and often arranging for their transportation to Wok N' Roll for work.

According to U.S. Attorney Courtney Cox, "The United States Attorney's Office remains diligent to vigorously prosecute those who violate the immigration and employment laws of this country. During these difficult economic times, it is more important than ever to assure that law-abiding American citizens are not denied jobs by employers who hire illegal immigrants in violation of our laws. We will continue to work closely with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to assure that these goals are achieved."

"ICE aggressively targets employers who employ an illegal workforce to gain an unfair competitive advantage for their own profit," said Gary Hartwig, special agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Chicago. "Regardless of whether a company has five employees or 50,000 employees, ICE will enforce the law against employers who tolerate or perpetuate a shadow economy."

The federal investigation began following a lead provided by the Herrin Police Department.

The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service; Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and the Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison. Assistant United States Attorney Michael Thompson handled the forfeiture aspects of the case.

### April 2

- Philippines: Jemaah Islamiya explodes bomb on crowded passenger wharf, killing 16 and injuring 55. (2003)
- Gaza: Palestinian Islamic Jihad official Muhammad 'Abd al-Il'al killed in Israel rocket attack. (2001)
- Terrorists exploded a bomb in passenger jet TWA Flight 840 as it flew from Rome to Athens. Four American citizens, a Colombian-born man, as well as a Greek-American grandmother, daughter, and nine-month-old granddaughter, fell 15,000 feet after being sucked from the cabin through the nine-by-four foot hole blasted in the plane's side. The remaining 118 passengers survived. The Arab Revolutionary Cells claimed responsibility for the attack and said that it was in retaliation for American air attacks on Libya during the previous month's disagreement over whether foreign ships could use the Gulf of Sidra (located off of Libya). The bombing of TWA Flight 840 occurred less than a year after Shi'a Muslim terrorists hijacked a plane flying from Athens to Rome. (1986)

### April 3

- France: Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Brigades assassinate Israeli Embassy political secretary. (1982)

### April 4

- Germany: La Belle disco bombed, killing three and wounding 200; Libya responsible. (1986)
- United States: Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. He was an American clergyman, activist, and prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement. His main legacy was to secure progress on civil rights in the United States and he is frequently referenced as a human rights icon today. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and Congressional Gold Medal in 2004; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a U.S. national holiday in 1986. (1968)

### April 5

- Hizballah hijacks Kuwait Airways jet, killing two passengers; hijackers allowed to return to Algeria 16 days later. (1988)
- United States: Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for setting fire to a store belonging to a man convicted of slaughtering and selling endangered tigers and leopards for rugs, trophies and meat. (2003)
- United States: Matthew Hale, World Church of the Creator (Pontifex Maximus), and former head of the National Socialist White American's Party, received the maximum sentence of 40 years for solicitation of homicide on a federal judge in Chicago, Illinois. (2005)
- Christian: Palm Sunday, a Christian moveable feast that always falls on the Sunday before Easter. The feast commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the days before his Passion. In many Christian churches, Palm Sunday is marked by the distribution of palm leaves (often tied into crosses) to the assembled worshipers.

### April 6

- United States: Algerian Ahmed Ressay convicted for his role in "Millennium Attack" on Los Angeles International Airport on December 31, 1999. (2001)

### April 7

- Israel: Suicide bomber strikes restaurant, killing 15 people and injuring more than 40; HAMAS claims responsibility. (2002)
- Greece: Rocket attack damages U.S. Citibank and other buildings; the terrorist group "17 November" claims responsibility on April 9, 2001. (1998)

### April 9

- Jewish: Passover (1st Day)
- Tunisia: Martyrs Day

## KEY DATES IN APRIL, continued

- United States: An auto dealership in Santa Cruz, California, had 40 sport utility vehicles (SUVs) vandalized with anti-war and anti-oil statements to include "Killer," "I love slavery," and "ELF" – a reference to the Earth Liberation Front. Additionally, approximately 15-20 SUVs in a residential area of Santa Cruz were also vandalized with anti-war slogans. (2003)

### April 10

- Usama Bin Laden sent message to international Islamists to back Taliban and urged next generation to prepare for holy war. (2001)
- Christian: Good Friday also called Holy Friday, Great Friday or Black Friday, is the Friday preceding Easter Sunday. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Golgotha.
- Israel: HAMAS suicide bomber kills eight; wounds 22 in bus attack. (2002)
- Jewish: Passover (2nd Day)

### April 11

- Jewish: Passover (3rd Day)

### April 12

- Christian: Easter Sunday is the most important religious feast in the Christian liturgical year. Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead three days after his crucifixion and celebrate this resurrection on Easter Day, or Easter Sunday, two days after Good Friday.
- Israel: Suicide bomber kills six, injures 104 in Jerusalem; al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade responsible. (2002)
- Jewish: Passover (4th Day)

### April 13

- Jewish: Passover (5th Day)

### April 14

- Israel- Holocaust Memorial Day (1949)
- Libya: U.S. planes bomb Tripoli and Benghazi in retaliation for La Belle disco bombing. (1986)
- Jewish: Passover (6th Day)
- Jewish: Passover (7th Day; in Israel, Passover ends at sundown)

### April 16

- United States: "The Virginia Tech massacre" was the single most deadly civilian gunfire incident in American higher education history. Thirty-two people were killed by gunman Seung-Hui Cho in two separate locations, about two hours apart. The remaining 30 people were shot in an attack lasting nine minutes; 25 others were injured. The gunman then took his own life. (2007)
- Jewish: Passover (8th Day; ends at sundown)

### April 17

- Gaza Strip: Israelis kills HAMAS Gaza Strip leader Dr. 'Abd al-Aziz al-Rantisi. (2004)

### April 18

- Lebanon: Car bomb explodes in front of U.S. Embassy, killing 63 and wounding over 100; Hizballah responsible. (1983)

## KEY DATES IN APRIL, continued

### April 19

- United States: End of 51-day Waco, Texas siege. Fire destroyed the Branch Davidian ranch at Mount Carmel, killing 76 people, including 21 children and two pregnant women, along with leader David Koresh. (1993)
- United States: Patriots Day (1775)
- Execution of Richard Wayne Snell, a member of the radical white supremacist group, The Covenant, The Sword, and the Arm of the Lord (known as the "CSA"), which was started in 1971 in the small community of Elijah, Arkansas, by polygamist James Ellison. Snell's downfall came in June 1984, when he killed a pawn shop owner he mistakenly believed was of Jewish descent. Shortly thereafter, he killed a black Arkansas State Trooper. Snell was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison for the murder of the state trooper and death for the pawn shop owner. Coincidentally, he was executed on the same day that Timothy McVeigh carried out the Oklahoma City bombing. (1995)
- United States: Bombing of Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The attack claimed 168 lives and left over 800 injured. Until the September 11, 2001 attacks, it was the deadliest act of terrorism on U.S. soil. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were both arrested for their roles in the bombing. (1995) Timothy McVeigh found guilty and executed June 11, 2001.

### April 20

- Germany: Red Army Faction announces dissolution. (1998)
- Adolph Hitler's birthday (1889) has become an annual celebration for white supremacist groups worldwide, specifically those subscribing to a neo-Nazi ideology. Events range from large assemblies to private house parties. Overt celebrations, such as rallies and marches, are typically open to the public. Covert celebrations such as house parties and memorial barbecues are usually reserved for members only. Invitations are often sent out via the Internet and event locations are often kept secret in an effort to evade law enforcement detection. Both overt and covert celebrations serve as platforms for recruitment. This year, during the weekend preceding Hitler's birthday, the National Socialist Movement (NSM) is honoring its 35-year history within the United States by holding its national meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. The NSM is opening the members-only national meeting to "all known white patriots" who wish to attend the event. Featured events included an afternoon rally on April 18th and a band later that evening. Last year, NSM's Hitler's birthday commemoration included a rally in which members marched to the Nation's Capital "against illegal immigration." Historically, the enemy of the white supremacist (neo-Nazi) movement has been Jews and all things pertaining to Judaism; however, with the recent economic downturn the movement now uses anti immigration issues for recruitment and propaganda rhetoric.
- Japan: Chemical attack on Yokohama Subway by Aum Shinrikyo. (1995)
- United States: Two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, ages 17 and 18, members of the Trench Coat Mafia, killed 12 students, one teacher, and injured 23 other students in a shooting rampage before committing suicide at Columbine High School, in Littleton, Colorado. (1999)
- Canada: Four students and one staff member were stabbed by a teenage boy at a High School in Canada. This began at 11:21 a.m., the exact time the shooting started at Columbine High School. (2000)

### April 21

- Iraq: Suicide attackers detonate five car bombs in Basra, killing 73 and wounding 20. (2004)
- Saudi Arabia: Unknown terrorist car-bombs Riyadh police headquarters, killing 10 and wounding 125. (2004)
- Israel: Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah)

### April 22

- Earth Day – possible demonstrations by environmentalists.

## KEY DATES IN APRIL, continued

- Peru: Four-month hostage situation at Japanese Embassy ends with 17 dead, 71 freed; Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) responsible. (1997)

### April 23

- Philippines: Abu Sayyaf Group kidnaps 21, including ten foreign tourists. (2000)

### April 24

- Colombia: Landmine kills one U.S. Marine and wounds five others; Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) believed responsible. (2003)
- Turkey: Kurdistan Workers' Party member jailed 12 years for planning suicide bombing. (2001)

### April 25

- India: Bomb explodes at courthouse, killing three and injuring 34 others. (2003)
- Colombia: FARC kills more than 12 suspected United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) members. (2001)
- Iran: Ill-fated secret U.S. military rescue mission, Operation Eagle Claw, to rescue American hostages held in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The hostages were eventually released after 444 days. (1980)

### April 26

- Colombia: Government withdraws troops and allows the National Liberation Army (ELN) to claim territory. (2001)
- United States: Matthew Hale, WCOTC, found guilty (sentenced in 2005) for solicitation of homicide of a federal judge in Chicago, Illinois. (2004)
- United States: National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 26 – May 2)
- Russia: Chernobyl Disaster (1986)
- Israel: Founding of Palestine Liberation Front (1977)

### April 27

- Greece: Anti-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) bombing in the Intercontinental Hotel kills one and wounds one; Revolutionary cells responsible. (1999)

### April 28

- Iraq: Saddam Hussein's Birthday (d) (1937)
- Israel: Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron)
- United States: Acquittal of Los Angeles Police Officers for Rodney King case. Violent citywide riot ensued. (1992)
- Israel: Independence Day observed (lunar calendar)

### April 30

- Israel: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade suicide bomber attacks Tel Aviv pub, killing three Israelis and injuring 64 others, including one U.S. citizen. (2003)
- Adolf Hitler commits suicide. (1945)