

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

A. Courtney Cox, U.S. Attorney
July 2008



A Message from the U.S. Attorney

I thought it would be helpful to use this space this month to share some information with you about our office. The Southern District of Illinois is comprised of the 38 southernmost counties in Illinois. Our offices are located in three places: Benton, Fairview Heights, and the Federal Courthouse in East St. Louis.

Our mission is to serve the citizens of the Southern District of Illinois with the highest standards of professionalism, vigilance, and integrity by providing leadership and dedication in ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice by:

- zealously prosecuting violators of federal criminal laws and upholding the civil rights of citizens, while defending the United States and its agencies against claims;
- fostering a cooperative working relationship between state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies; and
- maintaining an active role in the community through improving the safety and quality of life of our citizens.

As the United States Attorney, I am assisted in this mission by 34 Assistant United States Attorneys. In addition, there are 34 members of our support staff who serve in various capacities to assist the attorneys in the office. Some serve in specialized capacities. For example, Julie Swanston is our Victim-Witness Coordinator, Ron Shownes is our Law Enforcement Coordinator, and Mario Jimenez is our Intelligence Specialist.

While our Criminal Division often receives most of the attention of the media and the public, an equally important part of our office is the Civil Division. The eight attorneys in the Civil Division perform two important functions: 1) to defend the United States from claims brought against it, and 2) to take affirmative steps to bring claims on behalf of the United States against persons and assets.

I hope you will take time to visit our website [<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ils/>] and learn more about our office, or just call me or send me an email at courtney.cox@usdoj.gov.

A. Courtney Cox

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Link to our website:

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

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2007 SDIL JOINT FEDERAL AWARDS



Frank Gorman, Assistant to the Director of Consumer Protection for the FTC, travelled from Washington, D.C., to present AUSA Bruce Reppert with the prestigious Federal Trade Commission Criminal Liaison Unit Award for his outstanding, ground-breaking, and successful prosecutions in telemarketing fraud cases in the Southern District of Illinois.



Michael P. Gelios, Special Investigative Support Technician at FCI-Greenville, received the Superior Service and Career Achievement Award for his outstanding work in law enforcement.



Scott W. Lindauer, IRS Special Agent, received the Superior Service Award for more than two decades of outstanding and exemplary law enforcement service.



Rick Fair, a 30-year veteran of the Illinois State Police and long-time member of the Medicaid Fraud Control Bureau, accepts the United States Attorney Award for his invaluable contribution to the fight against Medicaid fraud.

2007 SDIL JOINT FEDERAL AWARDS, continued



Special Agent Terry Brown of the Office of Inspector General, Criminal Investigation Division, for the Social Security Administration accepts the United States Attorney Award for service in both the Southern and Central Districts of Illinois protecting the integrity of social security programs and supporting other important initiatives in our District.



Recipients of the United States Attorney Award for their successful prosecution of child exploitation cases against Casey Carson and Brenda Russell were AUSA Suzanne Garrison (Project Safe Childhoods' Coordinator for the USAO), [not pictured] FBI Special Agent Tyrone Forte, Special Agent William Nicholson, AFOSI, Detachment 301, Scott Air Force Base, and Special Agent Michael J. Walker, 21st Military Police Detachment, CID, United States Army, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

2007 SDIL JOINT FEDERAL AWARDS, continued



FBI Releases Preliminary Annual Crime Statistics for 2007

According to the FBI's *Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report* released today, the nation experienced a 1.4 percent decrease in the number of violent crimes and a 2.1 percent decline in the number of property crimes for 2007 compared with data from 2006. The report is based on information that the FBI gathered from 12,032 law enforcement agencies that submitted six to 12 comparable months of data to the FBI for both 2006 and 2007.

Violent Crime Decreased by 1.4 Percent

All four of the violent crime offense categories declined nationwide in 2007 compared with data from 2006. Forcible rape decreased 4.3 percent, and murder and non-negligent manslaughter declined 2.7 percent. Robbery and aggravated assault offenses each decreased 1.2 percent.

By population group, cities with populations of 250,000 to 499,999 saw the greatest decline in violent crime (3.9 percent).

Violent crime in non-metropolitan counties increased 1.8 percent, but in metropolitan counties decreased 1.7 percent.

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter decreased 9.8 percent in cities with one million or more inhabitants. However, in cities with populations of 50,000 to 99,999, murder and non-negligent manslaughter increased 3.7 percent.

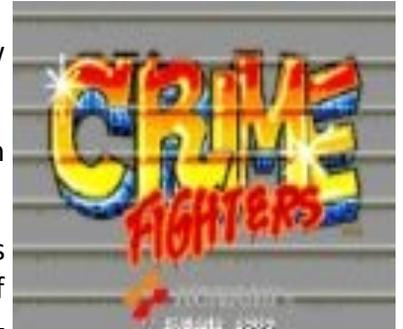
Forcible rape declined in all population groupings. Cities with one million or more inhabitants experienced the greatest decline, at 8.0 percent.

Cities with populations from 250,000 to 499,999 had the greatest decrease in robbery (3.0 percent). The nation's largest cities, one million or more in population, also experienced a 2.9 percent decrease in robbery.



Aggravated assault decreased most (4.3 percent) in cities with 250,000 to 499,999 inhabitants. However, reports of this offense increased three percent in cities with 10,000 to 24,999 persons. Aggravated assault also increased 3.0 percent in non-metropolitan counties.

Three of the nation's four regions experienced drops in violent crime in 2007. However, in the South, violent crime increased 0.7 percent in 2007 when compared with data from 2006.



FBI Releases Preliminary Annual Crime Statistics for 2007, continued

Property Crimes Decreased by 2.1 Percent

Property crime decreased in all city groupings. Cities with 250,000 to 499,999 inhabitants had the greatest decrease in property crimes with a decline of 4.2 percent. Non-metropolitan counties saw a 1.7 percent decrease in property crime, and metropolitan counties had a 1.6 percent decline.

Burglary offenses ranged from a decrease of 3.3 percent in cities with 500,000 to 999,999 persons to an increase of 4.0 percent in cities with one million or more inhabitants.

Larceny-theft experienced a decline in all population groups with the exception of cities with 500,000 to 999,999 inhabitants, where these offenses were up less than one-tenth of one percent.

Motor vehicle theft experienced declines in all population groupings.

Three of the nation's four regions had decreases in property crimes in 2007 when compared with data from 2006. In the South, property crimes were up 1.1 percent.



Arson Decreased by 7 Percent

Arson offenses, tracked separately from other property crimes, decreased 7.0 percent nationwide and declined in each of the population groupings.

Reprinted from Washington D.C., FBI National Press Office on June 9, 2008. The complete *Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report* is available exclusively at www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm.

WELCOME OUR NEW EMPLOYEE

Lori Smith joined our office on June 16, 2008, and is our new receptionist. She previously worked for the U.S. Army Aviation and Troop Command where she was employed for almost 18 years. She left federal service after the Command moved to Huntsville, Alabama. Prior to coming to the U.S. Attorney's Office, she was the office manager for the Environmental Health and Allergy Center for 10 years.



RECENT NOTEWORTHY CASES

COCAINE

[RONNIE LAUDERDALE](#), age 51, of West Memphis, Arkansas, was sentenced on June 2, 2008, to life imprisonment for his conviction of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine. **LAUDERDALE** received a concurrent sentence of 30 years for unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. **LAUDERDALE** was found guilty of both offenses by a jury on February 15, 2008.



According to evidence presented at the sentencing hearing, this is **LAUDERDALE'S** eighth drug-related conviction, and he therefore faced a mandatory life sentence as a result of his role in the cocaine conspiracy. **LAUDERDALE** was found by the Court to have been the leader of an organization that trafficked some 32 kilograms of cocaine into the Metro-East area, primarily to the Madison and Venice areas.

LAUDERDALE possessed a firearm in his vehicle in connection with the September 2006 delivery of 20 kilograms of cocaine to the Madison area. In addition, the Court found that **LAUDERDALE** obstructed justice by attempting to arrange the killing of two prospective witnesses while he was incarcerated awaiting trial.

The investigation was conducted by agents of the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois (MEGSI) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The case was prosecuted by Assistant

United States Attorneys James E. Crowe, III, and Nicole E. Gorovsky.

[ABRAHAM KILLINGSWORTH](#), age 31, of East St. Louis, was sentenced on June 9, 2008, to a total of 17 years' imprisonment for his conviction of possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. **KILLINGSWORTH** entered a plea of guilty to all three offenses on February 20, 2008.

Evidence received at the plea and sentencing established that **KILLINGSWORTH** planned and committed a September 2006 armed robbery of 1.5 kilograms of cocaine from a Venice, Illinois man from whom he had arranged to purchase cocaine. During the course of the pre-arranged drug deal, **KILLINGSWORTH** pointed a .38 caliber firearm at the cocaine dealer and stole the cocaine. After vehicular and foot pursuits, **KILLINGSWORTH** was apprehended by officers of the Venice Police Department.

KILLINGSWORTH faced a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years' imprisonment based upon the amount of cocaine he possessed. He was sentenced to a consecutive seven-year sentence for brandishing a firearm during a drug trafficking offense.

The investigation was conducted by officers of the Venice Police Department, along with agents of the MEGSI, and the DEA.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James E. Crowe, III.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

[ADRIAN PEREZ-ORTIZ](#), age 25, of Paramount, California, was sentenced in the United States District Court in East St. Louis for possession with the intent to distribute cocaine on June 13, 2008. **PEREZ-ORTIZ** was sentenced to 46 months of imprisonment, three years of supervised release, fined \$300, and ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment. He had entered a plea of guilty on January 11, 2008.

According to the Stipulation of Facts, the violation occurred on November 5, 2007. After a traffic stop of a vehicle in which **PEREZ-ORTIZ** was a passenger, agents recovered approximately 498 grams of cocaine which **PEREZ-ORTIZ** admitted belonged to him. **PEREZ-ORTIZ** also admitted that he intended to sell the cocaine.

The investigation was conducted by the DEA, as part of its 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.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

[STEVEN LANE LACEY](#), age 47, formerly of Casey, was sentenced in the United States District Court in East St. Louis on June 5, 2008. **LACEY** was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment, fined \$17,500, and placed on lifetime supervised release, as a result of his earlier guilty plea to possession of child pornography.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Southern Illinois Cyber Crimes Task Force, along with assistance from the Carbondale Po-

lice Department, the Marion Police Department, and the Clark County Sheriff's Office.

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

[MARK C. HUFFSTATLER](#), age 33, of Vandalia, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton on June 12, 2008. **HUFFSTATLER** was sentenced to 450 months' imprisonment, fined \$100, and placed on lifetime supervised release.

HUFFSTATLER had previously pleaded guilty to a 1-count indictment which charged producing child pornography. **HUFFSTATLER** received an enhanced penalty because he had a prior felony conviction for sexual abuse of children.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI Cyber Crimes Task Force and the Mt. Vernon Police Department.

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

[ROBERT EUGENE HOKE](#), age 63, of Robinson, pleaded guilty to 2 counts involving child pornography in the United States District Court in Benton on June 17, 2008.

HOKE pleaded guilty to count 1 of the indictment which charged that from October 8, 2005, to November 15, 2005, **HOKE** received images of child pornography that had been sent in interstate commerce over the internet. **HOKE** also pleaded guilty to count 2 of the indictment which charged that from October 28, 2005, to November 29, 2005,

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

HOKE possessed a video clip of child pornography that had been sent in interstate commerce on the internet.

With respect to count 1, **HOKE** faces a penalty of 5 to 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of supervised release from five years to life.

With respect to count 2, **HOKE** faces a penalty of up to ten years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of from five years to life.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI Cyber Crimes Task Force, the Crawford County Sheriff's Office, the Robinson Police Department, and the Marion Police Department.

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

METHAMPHETAMINE

[KEVIN SCOTT CLARK](#), age 51, of Mt. Carmel, was sentenced in United States District Court in East St. Louis on June 16, 2008, 135 months' imprisonment for his role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in and around Wabash County between October 2005 and December 2006, and for possessing equipment, chemicals, products, and materials for use in manufacturing methamphetamine. **CLARK** was charged with those offenses by a federal Grand Jury on December 4, 2007, and pleaded guilty to both charges on February 28, 2008.

Evidence presented to support **CLARK's** guilty plea and sentence showed that **CLARK** and another individual involved in the conspiracy would steal anhydrous ammonia together

from farm supply businesses and then use it and other materials they obtained to manufacture methamphetamine which **CLARK** then sold to various individuals in and around Wabash County. On December 29, 2006, a search was conducted of **CLARK's** residence in Mt. Carmel where anhydrous ammonia, lithium, pseudoephedrine pills, and camping fuel were discovered which **CLARK** admitted he possessed with the intent to use to manufacture methamphetamine.

In addition to the term of imprisonment, **CLARK** was ordered to pay the United States fines and special assessments totaling \$950 and was placed on a term of supervised release of five years to follow his incarceration. **CLARK** will be required to serve at least 85 percent of his sentence.

The on-going investigation into the case is currently being led by the Carmi office of the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, with the assistance of the Mt. Carmel Police Department, the Wabash County Sheriff's Department, the Illinois State Police, the Wabash County State's Attorney, and the DEA.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.

FIREARMS

[SAMUEL BROWN](#), age 27, of East St. Louis, was sentenced in the United States District Court in East St. Louis on June 6, 2008. **BROWN** was sentenced to 96 months' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, a \$100 special assessment, and three years' supervised release.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

BROWN had previously pleaded guilty on February 15, 2008, to 1 count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The investigation was conducted by the East St. Louis Police Department and the Fairview Heights Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, pursuant to their participation in the USAO's Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

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



TRAVELING/TRANSPORTING

HERIBERTO TORRES-RODRIGUEZ, age 49, of Opa-Loka, Florida, was indicted by a federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis, in a 2-count indictment with traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct (count 1), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2423(b), and transporting a minor in interstate commerce with the intent of engaging in sexual activity with that minor (count 2), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2423(a) on June 17, 2008. Count 1 carries a maximum penalty of 30 years' imprisonment. Count 2 carries a maximum penalty of not less than 10 years up to life imprisonment.

Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3509, which provides privacy rights to child crime victims, the identity of

the minor child in this case is protected from public disclosure.

TORRES-RODRIGUEZ was taken into custody in Florida on May 23, 2008. He is expected to be returned to the Southern District of Illinois for further proceedings on these charges.

The case was investigated by the Belleville Police Department; the Illinois State Police; the Opa-Loka, Florida, Police Department; the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; the FBI-Miami, Florida Division; the FBI-Fairview Heights, Illinois Office, with the assistance of the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Suzanne M. Garrison and Nicole E. Gorovsky.

MORTGAGE FRAUD

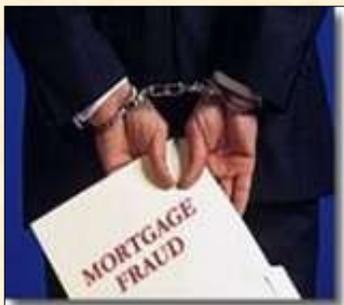
KEITH L. PITTMAN, age 53, of formerly of Maryville, was indicted by Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis on June 19, 2008, in a count 1 indictment charging him with mortgage loan fraud. The offense carries a penalty of up to 30 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000.00, or both.

The investigation and indictment coincide with the National Mortgage Fraud Take-down named "Operation Malicious Mortgage." This morning in Washington, D.C., an FBI-organized press conference announced "Operation Malicious Mortgage,"

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

highlighting both the significant threat posed by mortgage fraud for federally insured and uninsured lenders and the ongoing law enforcement response.

The case was investigated by the FBI and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.



The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Liam Coonan.

MARIHUANA

[ADOLPH B. PAULSON](#), age 34, of West Frankfort, was sentenced in United States District Court in East St. Louis on June 26, 2008. **PAULSON**, who had previously pleaded guilty to a 1 count indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute 1,000 or more kilograms of marihuana, was sentenced to 174 months' imprisonment, five years' supervised release, and fined \$300. The District Court also entered a \$4 million forfeiture order against **PAULSON**.

Seven co-defendants have previously been sentenced to imprisonment for their role in the marihuana conspiracy. One co-defendant is set to enter a guilty plea on July 24, 2008.

The investigation is being conducted by the Illinois State Police, COMIT Drug Task Force, Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County

Sheriff's Office, and the DEA pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

Two case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

Dates of Significance in July

- July 3:** Iran Air Flight 655 disaster - U.S. Navy fired two missiles that killed 290 passengers. (1988)
- July 3-4:** Benjamin Nathaniel Smith, linked to the World Church of the Creator, killed and injured minorities and Jews throughout Illinois and Indiana until his suicide. (1999)
- July 4:** Independence Day; Hesham Mohamed Hadayet killed two people and injured three people who were at the El Al ticket counter in the Los Angeles International Airport. El Al Security personnel shot and killed the gunman. (2002)
- July 5:** Two women suicide bombers detonated bombs at a rock concert in suburban Moscow that killed 16 people. (2003)
- July 7:** Anniversary of London Tube (subway) Bombings. (England, 2005)
- July 12:** Orange Day, Protestant victory over Roman Catholics at the Battle of Boyne, Northern Ireland. (1690)
- July 13:** Birthday of Nathan Bedford Forrest, founder of the KU KLUX KLAN. (1821)
- July 14:** Bastille Day (France); Revolution Day (Iraq)
- July 16:** Saddam Hussein became president of Iraq. (1979)
- July 17:** Iraq National Day
- July 18:** Jewish Community Center bombed, Hizballah responsible (Argentina, 1994)
- July 23:** Egypt National Day; Egyptian Revolution. Anniversary of the overthrow of the monarchy in Egypt by the military under the leadership of Gamel Nasser. (1952); William Pierce, Founder and Chair man of the National Alliance, died. (2002); Bombings in the resort of Sharm el Sheik, Egypt, in which over 90 people were killed. (2005)
- July 24:** Tisha B'av, 2007. (Jewish)
- July 25:** United States invasion of Puerto Rico. (1898); Algerian GIA terrorists carry out bomb attack on Saint Michel Metro Station, killing 7 and injuring 120. (Paris, France (1995)); Air France Concorde crashes on takeoff, killing 114 people. (Paris, France (2000))
- July 26:** 100th Anniversary of the FBI; A suicide bomber detonated a car bomb near the gate of a United States base in Mosul that killed an Iraqi guard, a woman and child. (2004)
- July 30:** Birthday of Henry Ford, a hero by factions of the Neo-Nazi movement. (1863); Coordinated bomb attacks detonated outside the United States and Israeli embassies killed two people and injured several others in Uzbekistan. A third occurred outside a local prosecutor's office. The bombings occurred during the trial of 15 Uzbeks that were suspected Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and Hizbi Tahrir group members, both of which are believed to have ties to Al Qaeda. (2004)