



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRACK COCAINE IS A SURE TICKET TO PRISON IN EAST TEXAS

(Tyler, Texas) Five individuals have been sentenced to prison for various crimes related to the possession and distribution of crack cocaine in the Carthage and Henderson areas. U.S. District Judge Leonard Davis sentenced **MARTEZ BROWN**, 28 of Henderson to 105 months in prison, **JERRY BOB FOUTZ**, 29 of Henderson, to 42 months in prison, **JEROME JODIE JIMMERSON**, 25 of DeBerry, to 37 months in prison, **LESTER DELVECCHIO LEWIS**, 27 of Carthage, to 18 months in prison, and **JOHN MICHAEL PELLUM**, 43 of Carthage, to 57 months in prison.

According to information presented by prosecutors, the individuals were named as co-defendants along with 13 other persons in a 105 count indictment charging violations of Title 21, United States Code (USC), Section 846, conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, as well as Title 21, USC, Section 841 charges for individual sales and deliveries of crack cocaine in the Carthage and Henderson, Texas area.

BROWN pleaded guilty to possession of 5 grams or more of crack cocaine. **FOUTZ** pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

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JIMMERSON pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

LEWIS pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

PELLUM pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

U.S. Attorney Matthew D. Orwig praised the work of law enforcement in bringing these defendants to justice, "The agents did an outstanding job of removing a sizeable amount of drugs from the streets of East Texas. Crack cocaine, and those who possess it or distribute it, are not welcome in this District."

Other defendants in the case are awaiting sentencing.

The investigation was led by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Northeast Texas Drug Task Force and Panola County Sheriff's Department. Assistant United States Attorney Jim Middleton prosecuted the case.

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