



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

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BOWIE COUNTY MAN CONVICTED IN CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY

(Texarkana, Texas) A 32-year-old Bowie County man has been found guilty of conspiracy to possess more than 50 grams of crack cocaine with intent to distribute.

DESMON CHARLES EASTER was convicted late yesterday by a jury in Texarkana following a two day trial.

During the trial, the defense contended that the government did not meet its burden of proving that Desmond Easter had an agreement with anyone regarding crack cocaine. The Government called an accomplice who testified that he had been involved with Desmond Easter in the crack cocaine business and that Desmond Easter had delivered either crack cocaine or powder cocaine to him for a year and a half.

The Government also presented Court authorized wire tap telephone conversations between Desmond Easter and other individuals who were allegedly engaged in drug transaction discussions. In their final argument to the jury, the defense contended that these conversations did not refer to drugs but were innocent in nature.

The jury deliberated for about 25 minutes before finding Desmond Easter guilty.

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Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas was pleased with the verdict, "This was an extremely complex case with a well organized distribution cell. The jury had no problem seeing through the defendant's attempts to cover his tracks."

Desmon Easter was placed in custody after the verdict and faces up to life in prison and a fine of up to \$1 million. U.S. District Judge David Folsom did not set a date for sentencing.

Orwig also praised the work of the prosecution team, "The law enforcement officers and prosecutors worked diligently to put this organization out of business. They were recently presented with a national award for their hard work on this very case. However, the ultimate award has been bestowed by this jury: another drug dealer off the streets of East Texas."

The case was investigated by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service-CID, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Bowie County District Attorney's Office and various other local law enforcement agency and narcotics task forces. Assistant United States Attorneys Tom Ferraro and Richard Moore prosecuted the case