



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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*Contact: Davilyn Brackin*

*(409) 839-2538*

## **I-10 DRUG RUNNERS SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON**

(Beaumont, Texas) Two Florida men have been sentenced for drug trafficking as a result of a Beaumont traffic stop on I-10 in September, 2003. **JOSE ERNESTO PENA, 36**, received 87 months in federal prison and **REUBEN AUGUSTO LEON, 27**, was sentenced to 54 months for Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute MDMA or "Ecstasy." The two Miami, Florida men were sentenced today by United States District Judge Ron Clark.

According to information prosecutors presented in court, Leon and Pena were driving were traveling eastbound on I-10 in the early morning hours of September 10, 2003, when Beaumont Police pulled their vehicle over for a routine traffic stop. During a search of the vehicle, officers discovered nearly 46,000 Ecstasy tablets behind side molding in the rear of the SUV. The Jefferson County Narcotics Task Force says it is the largest seizure of Ecstasy ever in Jefferson County. Pena and Leon entered guilty pleas in November, 2003, to the charges of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute MDMA.

**U.S. Attorney Matthew D. Orwig praised the work of the Beaumont Police, DEA and the Jefferson County Narcotics Task Force for their work in reducing the shipment of illegal drugs along I-10, "This seizure and subsequent arrest show the importance of patrolling**

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Pena\_Leon Sentencing  
May 25, 2004  
page 2

**Interstate-10. I-10 is considered one of the country's top drug routes. Reducing the flow of drugs through our communities remains a top priority of law enforcement."**

The case was investigated by the Beaumont Police Department, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Jefferson County Narcotics Task Force. Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall Fluke prosecuted the case.

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