



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DALLAS MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS

(Texarkana, TX) A 34-year-old Dallas man has been sentenced to 120 months in federal prison for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

LESLIE E. WOOD was convicted by a jury in United States District Court in Texarkana, Texas, on February 18, 2004. He appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge David Folsom.

According to information prosecutors presented in court, WOOD was indicted, along with ROBERT TIMOTHY WALDRUM of New Boston Texas, MELANIE COMPTON, and DIANA MASON, both of Dallas, Texas, in a four count indictment on February 5, 2003. The indictment charged all four defendants with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Additionally Waldrum, Compton, and Mason were charged with possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. Court records and testimony from the trial established that WOOD, along with Compton and Mason, manufactured methamphetamine at a warehouse in the Dallas area and then distributed the finished product to East Texas over a period of several months. On October 21, 2002, WOOD, Compton, Mason and others, manufactured methamphetamine at the warehouse in Dallas, Texas. On October 22, Mason and Compton attempted to

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transport approximately 200 grams of the methamphetamine the defendants had manufactured to Bowie County, Texas, for delivery to co-defendant Waldrum. They were arrested during a traffic stop in Sulphur Springs, Texas. At the request of law enforcement officers, Mason made several recorded phone calls to WOOD in Dallas. The drugs were then delivered by Mason and undercover law enforcement officers to New Boston, Texas, where Robert Timothy Waldrum arrived and took possession of the methamphetamine. Waldrum, Mason and Compton were all arrested on October 22, 2002.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, says the defendant has received a just sentence, "This person spread poison through our community when supplying methamphetamine. This behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this District."

WOOD had two prior convictions for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. He is currently incarcerated in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division serving a five year term of imprisonment on an unrelated methamphetamine distribution charge. The ten years sentence imposed by Judge Folsom will be served consecutively to the state sentence.

Co-defendants Melanie Compton and Diana Mason had previously pled guilty and were sentenced to 24 and 27 months respectively. Co-defendant Robert Timothy Waldrum entered a guilty plea on February 2, 2004, and is currently awaiting sentencing.

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The case was investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Service. Assistant U.S. Attorney Barry Bryant of Texarkana prosecuted the case.

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