



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Shana Jones, Special Assistant  
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer  
(210) 384-7440

March 9, 2009

**MEXICAN NATIONAL LIVING IN DALLAS  
SENTENCED TO LIFE IN FEDERAL PRISON ON DRUG AND MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in Waco this afternoon, United States Chief District Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr., sentenced 32-year-old Miguel Camarena to life in federal prison for his role in a drug distribution and money laundering scheme operating in Waco, Temple, Killeen, Belton and Dallas.

Camarena pleaded guilty on October 6, 2008, to one count each of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances and conspiracy to commit money laundering. He subsequently agreed to forfeit to the Government three Dallas-area properties used by the organization to store and distribute cocaine and methamphetamine—3909 Dismount in Dallas, 23 Woodhaven in Duncanville and 3819 Mount Pleasant in Dallas.

Federal and local authorities arrested Camarena in November 2007 based on information that he was involved in distributing more than 650 kilograms of cocaine and more than 250 kilograms of methamphetamine smuggled in from the Republic of Mexico over a five-year period beginning in July 2001. Authorities estimate that this criminal organization laundered over \$16 million in drug proceeds during the time of the conspiracy.

Camarena along with 17 other defendants, including Clayton Sharpless of Dallas, have been prosecuted and sentenced to federal prison in connection with this drug distribution conspiracy.

The case was investigated by the "Waco Treasury Task Force" led by IRS-Criminal Investigation. Members of the task force include: IRS-CI, Irving Police Department, Lorena Police Department, and the McLennan County Sheriff's Office. Special agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration as well as investigators from the Dallas Police Department also assisted in this investigation. This Waco-based task force's goal is to investigate and prosecute members of Mexican Drug Cartels and their associates who engage in money laundering and narcotics distribution in and through the Waco and Central Texas area. Assistant United States Attorney Mark Frazier prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

#####