

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Virginia

*Main Street Centre
600 E. Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2447*

*804/771-2186
Fax 804/771-2316*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Further Information Contact
Ms. Ann Helms 804-819-5400

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentencing on April 23, 2004, of Michael E. Williams, 29, of Chesterfield, Virginia, by the Honorable Henry E. Hudson, United States District Court Judge, to 35 years incarceration for conspiracy to engage in heroin and crack cocaine trafficking, and a related firearm offense. On January 15, 2004, Williams entered a guilty plea to Count One of the pending Indictment charging him with conspiring between November 2001 and August 27, 2003, with Eugene Ray Butler, Gary Wayne Ross, Mario Lorenzo Wingfield, Eric Stephenson Harrell, and others, to possess with intent to distribute in excess of one kilogram of heroin, "crack" cocaine, cocaine hydrochloride, and marijuana, and maintain a drug stash house. Williams also entered a guilty plea to Count Eighteen of the pending Indictment which charged him with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Previously, United States District Court Judge Henry Hudson sentenced co-defendants Mario Wingfield, 52, to 215 months incarceration; Eric S. Harrell, 25, to 215 months incarceration; Gary Wayne Ross, 33, to 250 months incarceration; and Eugene Ray Butler, 54, to 210 months incarceration. All the co-defendants are from Richmond, Virginia.

Also making this announcement is Henrico Commonwealth's Attorney Wade Kiser.

The case was investigated by the United States D. E. A. and Henrico County authorities, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney S. David Schiller.

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