



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,  
Acting United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist  
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, May 16, 2008

## **12 defendants sentenced for distributing crack cocaine in Duluth**

Twelve defendants were sentenced this week in connection with a crack cocaine distribution ring that sold between 40-60 kilograms of cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine, throughout the Duluth area from 2005-2007.

Those sentenced May 15 at the United States Courthouse in Duluth by U.S. District Court Chief Judge James Rosenbaum were: Carrie Jo Farrell, 41, Duluth; Jolynn Laura Johnson, 24, Duluth; Jennifer Rosayice Mincey, 28, Superior, Wisc.; and Theotus Wright, 70, unknown address.

Eight other defendants were sentenced by Judge Rosenbaum on May 14. They are: Francisco James Bell, 31, Duluth; Tyrell Martell Beckom, 23, East Duluth; Tracey Ann Clark, 24, Duluth; Makenzie Lynn Ann Eggersgluess, 21, Duluth; Amy Lynn Legore, 28, Duluth; Chaz Michael Legore, 43, Duluth; Aldrea Lane Siler, 24, Duluth; and Fredrick Damond Watts, 32, unknown address.

Fourteen additional defendants have already pleaded guilty in connection with this case, and are awaiting sentencing.

“We are pleased to see the last chapter come to an end on one of the largest drug cases in our area’s history,” said Duluth Police Chief Gordon Ramsey. “Let this serve as a strong warning to others who dare to think of selling drugs in Duluth. We want to thank our federal partners from the ATF (U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for everything they have done to make this a successful case.”

“The sentences received by the defendants in this case are the result of many law enforcement officers working together as a team,” said Bernard Zapor, special agent in charge of the ATF’s St. Paul Field Division. “Armed drug traffickers should be very concerned about their inability to hide from law enforcement collaboration. Officers, deputies and special agents spent many extra hours away from their families in order to make the Twin Ports community a safer

place.”

On May 15, Farrell was sentenced to probation and three years of supervised release on one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base. Johnson was sentenced to 54 months on one count of use of a communication facility to commit drug trafficking activities; Mincey was sentenced to 120 months on one count of aiding and abetting the distribution of cocaine base; and Wright was sentenced to 60 months on one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base.

On May 14, Bell was sentenced to 70 months in prison on one count of distribution of cocaine base; Beckom was sentenced to 30 months on one count of distribution of cocaine base; Clark was sentenced to 48 months on one count of aiding and abetting distribution of cocaine base; Eggersgluess was sentenced to 60 months on one count of distribution of cocaine base; Amy Legore was sentenced to 66 months on one count of distribution of cocaine base; Chaz Legore was sentenced to 36 months on one count of aiding and abetting distribution of cocaine base; and Watts was sentenced to 60 months on one count of aiding and abetting cocaine base. Siler, who pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and abetting the distribution of cocaine base, was scheduled to be sentenced, but the court elected to postpone the sentencing for six months.

Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant that directly affects the brain, and crack cocaine is the free-base form of the drug. This form comes in a rock crystal that can be heated and its vapors smoked. The term “crack” refers to the crackling sound heard when it is heated.

The defendants were indicted in July 2007 following their arrests in and around Duluth. According to federal search warrants filed in the case, law enforcement in the Duluth area had been investigating a cocaine and crack cocaine distribution ring for the past two years. The ring had been responsible for the sale and distribution of 40-60 kilograms of cocaine and crack cocaine in the Duluth and Superior, Wisc., areas – making it one of the region’s largest known drug operations to date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Lake Superior Drug and Gang Task Force, the Duluth Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, with assistance from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Christian S. Wilton and W. Anders Folk.

“This case is a classic example of the hard work and dedication law enforcement puts forth to keep drugs out of our communities,” said Acting U.S. Attorney Frank J. Magill. “I want to thank all our federal, state, and local partners, and Assistant United States Attorneys Chris Wilton and Anders Folk for their cooperative efforts in championing the cause of justice.”