



Department of Justice

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ATLANTA BUSINESSMAN INDICTED ON DRUG AND MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES

Atlanta, GA - LEE SELLERS, 45, ISMAEL ESTRADA, 41, LESLIE ANDERSON, 38, all of Atlanta, were indicted today by a federal grand jury on charges of conspiring to distribute cocaine, money laundering, and structuring financial transactions to avoid currency reporting requirements.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "The members of this drug conspiracy are charged with distributing hundreds of kilograms of cocaine in Atlanta, generating cash profits of well over \$1 million, and then laundering the drug funds they amassed, allowing the conspiracy to continue. This indictment demonstrates this office's commitment to prosecute not only those who actively distribute drugs in our community, but those who launder the money generated from this illicit activity."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the charges and other information presented in court, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) began investigating ESTRADA and ANDERSON for drug trafficking in April, 2005. Soon after the investigation began, DEA agents determined that ESTRADA and ANDERSON were actively distributing kilogram quantities of cocaine to buyers in Atlanta. It was also clear from the investigation that ESTRADA and ANDERSON were generating large sums of cash relating to their distribution of narcotics.

As part of the DEA's investigation of ESTRADA and ANDERSON, Special Agents began to investigate SELLERS and his business, "Choice Properties Group," a company which buys and sells real estate in the Atlanta area. The investigation soon determined that SELLERS was actively laundering drug funds by depositing drug profits into both his personal and Choice Properties accounts.

In a two-year period, SELLERS allegedly made \$1.3 million in cash deposits into the two accounts with most of the deposits occurring in \$10,000 increments. On numerous occasions, SELLERS made multiple deposits of \$10,000 within minutes of each other. During this same period, SELLERS wrote \$1.1 million in checks payable to ESTRADA, ESTRADA's businesses and even ESTRADA's 15-year-old daughter.

ESTRADA and ANDERSON remain fugitives in the case. SELLERS is free on a \$100,000 bond. (NEWS MEDIA NOTE: photos of the fugitives are available and electronically attached.)

The indictment charges 66 counts of drug trafficking, money laundering and structuring to avoid reporting currency requirements. The charges carry a maximum sentence of life in prison and a fine of up to \$4,000,000.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Assistant United States Attorney Kurt R. Erskine is prosecuting the case.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: www.justthinktwice.com.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.