



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

For Immediate Release
November 15, 2007

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

LOUISIANA PHARMACIST AND SON INDICTED FOR FILLING PRESCRIPTIONS RECEIVED VIA INTERNET

DEFENDANTS FACE DRUG AND MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES

*Paul Williams, Jr. and son, Paul Williams, III charged for illegally
distributing controlled substances through their pharmacy*

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge William J. Renton, Jr. announced the indictment of two local men, father and son, who worked at the Grand Coteau Prescription Shoppe in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, charging them with illegally distributing controlled substances and money laundering.

The 50-count indictment charges **PAUL WILLIAMS, JR.**, age 54, and owner of the Grand Coteau Prescription Shoppe (hereinafter referred to as the “pharmacy”), and **PAUL WILLIAMS, III**, age 28, both of Sunset, Louisiana, with 1 count of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances; 1 count of providing false information on an application and report to the Drug Enforcement Administration; 33 counts of distribution of a controlled substance; 13 counts of money laundering; and 2 counts of forfeiture.

The indictment alleges that between September 2006 and continuing through June 2007, **WILLIAMS, JR.**, acting as the pharmacist in charge, and **WILLIAMS, III**, caused the pharmacy to

contract with Ardopole International, Inc., a Panamanian corporation, to fill illegal prescriptions received via the Internet and to be paid \$8 for each prescription filled plus any costs associated with filling the prescriptions. The indictment further alleges that **WILLIAMS, JR.** filled prescriptions on behalf of the pharmacy, knowing that the person writing the prescription had no doctor-patient relationship with the patient, and as a result, the prescriptions were in violation of the law.

The indictment further alleges that in August 2005, **WILLIAMS, JR.** intentionally provided false information on an application required by the Drug Enforcement Administration, claiming that he had never had a state professional license revoked, suspended, denied, restricted or placed on probation, when in truth and in fact, he had.

The 33 counts of distribution of a controlled substance in the indictment allege instances wherein **WILLIAMS, JR.** violated the law by illegally filling prescriptions for controlled substances such as Lorazepan, Didrex, Ambien, Alprazolam, Clonazepam, Diazepam, and Phentermine.

It is further alleged in the indictment that **WILLIAMS, JR.** and **WILLIAMS, III** jointly opened a bank account to receive all payments via wire transfer from Panama as compensation for filling prescriptions received via the Internet. It is alleged that during the period of September 2006 through June 2007, all credits and deposits to this account, besides the \$100 initial opening deposit, came through wire transfers from the Country of Panama and totaled \$881,970. The forfeiture counts included in the indictment seek the forfeiture of over \$1 million from the drug proceeds and money laundering.

An indictment is merely an accusation and these defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Lafayette Resident Agency, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Luke Walker.

##