



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Christopher Todd Mite

**FORMER FUGITIVE COCAINE DISTRIBUTOR
SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS**

A former federal fugitive, who fled the state of Michigan, after pleading guilty to distributing cocaine in Ypsilanti, Michigan was sentenced to 360 months (30 years) imprisonment, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

U.S. Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Robert Corso, Drug Enforcement Administration and Robert Grubbs, United States Marshal, Detroit Division.

Christopher Todd Mite, 37, of Ypsilanti, was sentenced by United States District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff.

Mite pleaded guilty in August 2007 to one count of Distribution of 500 grams or More of Cocaine. The offense arose from Mite's sale of approximately one kilogram of cocaine to a law enforcement confidential informant in April of 2007.

At the time of his plea, Mite admitted to the Court that he received \$18,000 cash in

exchange for the kilogram of cocaine. He also admitted that the transaction took place at a home which was then owned by him in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

After his guilty plea, the court scheduled his sentencing to occur on December 4, 2007. However, between his guilty plea and sentencing date, Mite fled the jurisdiction, obtained false identification documents and ultimately traveled to California. Thus, Mite failed to appear at the originally-scheduled sentencing hearing.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Fleeing prosecution will only make matters worse. This is an example of how effective our oldest law enforcement agency, the U.S. Marshal's Service, is in apprehending those defendants who try to avoid the consequences of their actions. I salute the U.S. Marshal's Service, who, day in and day out, do an outstanding job that more often than not goes unheralded."

The United States Marshal Service ("USMS") for the Eastern District of Michigan initiated an investigation into Mite's whereabouts. Through the use of one or more confidential informants, as well as telephone records reviews and the assistance of the USMS of Oakland, California, the marshals apprehended Mite on January 3, 2008 at the Oakland Airport. At the time of his arrest, Mite had on his person, a social security card in the name of Joseph Daniel Coward and an Ohio State identification card issued in that same name on December 10, 2007.

Prior to his flight from the jurisdiction, Mite was facing a sentence under the United States Sentencing Guidelines of 262 to 327 months. However, his flight from the jurisdiction coupled with his efforts to evade arrest through the use of false documents, resulted in a rescission of his acceptance of responsibility for his crime. He was also assessed additional responsibility for attempting to obstruct justice. Therefore, his applicable sentencing range increased to 360 months to life imprisonment. He received 360 months of incarceration to be followed by a period of eight (8) years of supervised release.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stephanie Dawkins

Davis.