



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

June 5, 2006

EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Stewart Richardson

**FORMER WHITE LAKE BUSINESS OWNER
SENTENCED TO 74 MONTHS FOR INTERNET SCAM**

Stewart Richardson, 65, former owner of Retired Figurines located in White Lake, Michigan was sentenced today to 74 months in prison as a result of his February 2, 2006 guilty plea to one count of mail fraud and one count of wire fraud, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Joined in the announcement was FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts.

In addition to the prison sentence, Federal District Court Chief Judge Bernard A. Friedman also ordered Richardson to serve three years of supervised release, subject to numerous restrictions, and to pay restitution to his victims.

According to the information presented to the court at the time of the plea and sentencing hearings, Richardson was the co-owner and operator of a business named Retired Figurines. During the time period December 28, 2001 to January 4, 2002, Richardson conducted an online auction on Ebay and accepted bids on various collectable figurines from

bidders from numerous states. Richardson falsely represented to the bidders that he had the items he was auctioning when in fact he did not have those items and had no intention of ever actually delivering the items. Once the auction was closed, Richardson collected payments from a number of winning bidders and deposited that money into his bank account. Richardson then phoned second and third place bidders and falsely told them that the winning bidder had failed to pay, and so they were now eligible to buy the fictitious items. Richardson would then have these buyers send their money to him as well. In total, Richardson fraudulently obtained over \$300,000.00 from approximately 198 victims.

As the scheme was unwinding, Richardson withdrew all of the victims' money, as well as \$40,000 of equity from his home that he had obtained without his wife's knowledge. Richardson then told his employees he was going out to lunch, and instead drove to Detroit Metro Airport, abandoned his van and fled the state. Among the items left in the van were a Rolex watch box and a brochure describing how to make false identification documents.

A federal criminal complaint was issued in February 2002, however, Richardson remained a fugitive for several years. Richardson was apprehended in California in September, 2005, after telling his then-girlfriend that he was a fugitive, and displaying his "Wanted" poster to prove it. Richardson had also told this girlfriend that he had committed the fraud because his wife had died of cancer, leaving him with tremendous medical bills. In fact, Richardson had left his wife, who had co-owned the Retired Figurines business, and she was faced with Richardson's fraud victims making claims against the company.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "Commercial activity on the internet is largely unregulated, but is nevertheless frequently based upon the trust buyer has for seller. When that trust has been derided and exploited, as it has in this case, it is entirely appropriate for federal criminal prosecution to fill the void. Today's sentence signals my office's decision to apply appropriate resources in an effort to address those criminals who would exploit the trust of innocent buyers on the internet."

U.S. Attorney Murphy thanked the FBI and Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Hurley for their tenacious and diligent efforts in the successful investigation and prosecution of the case.



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June 5, 2006

EVENT: Forum

SAFE CHILD FORM

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today that he will be hosting an informational forum on his office's Child Protection Initiative. The program will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m., doors will open at 6:30 p.m. at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium located at 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan. Mr. Murphy stated that "The goal of this forum is to educate parents, teachers and law enforcement officials about the hidden dangers of the Internet and how we can better protect our children from predators who seek to use the Internet as a means for carrying out pernicious behavior."

The forum comes in response to the recent surge in crimes against our children. As technology advances and as the Internet becomes more accessible, the number of computer-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes committed against children is expected to continue to grow. The United States Attorney's Office has successfully charged and convicted a disturbingly high – and increasing number of criminal defendants in the past year who have engaged in despicable acts of criminality that endanger the safety and innocence of our community's most precious asset: our children. Child pornography, human trafficking, interstate transportation of minors for the purpose of engaging in criminal sexual conduct and

other sorts of predatory activity upon children are all federal offenses which the U.S. Attorney's Office has vigorously pursued, however, more can and will be done. United States Attorney Murphy formally committed today to doing all he can to protect our children through the tough enforcement of federal criminal law.

Therefore, in response to these troubling trends, and in conjunction with Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' Project Safe Childhood, United States Attorney Murphy has established a Child Protection Initiative that is intended to ensure that we are doing everything we possibly can to protect and take care of our district's children. Specifically, prosecutors intend to seek the maximum legally permissible sentences in such cases, and will intensify and redouble enforcement and community education programs to prevent, detect, punish and deter horrendous crimes against children. These efforts are specifically designed to prosecute those who prey on children, to put them in prison, and to make sure that they are not free to hurt others through additional degenerate acts. Cooperation with other federal, state and local law enforcement entities to address this problem is a top priority.

Speakers at the forum will include United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorcyca, Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Andrew Oosterbaan, the Chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., as well as Assistant U.S. Attorneys John O'Brien and Gary Felder.

The event is open to the public at no charge. For more information, contact Gina Balaya at (313) 226-9100.



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June 7, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Daniel Foote

**FORMER PLYMOUTH DENTIST PLEADS GUILTY TO
20-YEAR-OLD TAX EVASION CHARGES**

Daniel Foote, formerly of Plymouth, Michigan, pleaded guilty on June 6, 2006, to one count of a 1986 indictment charging him with three counts of tax evasion, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

United States Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

According to court records, in 1974, Foote was a practicing dentist in Plymouth, Michigan. He took a vow of poverty and transferred his business income into a bank account in the name of Life Science Church of Liberty Mission, which later became known as the Church of Liberty Mission. Foote's living expenditures were paid with funds drawn from the church's account. In 1976, Foote stopped filing federal tax returns. Notwithstanding his vow of poverty, in 1977 and 1978, Foote purchased real estate, securing mortgages that reflected his annual income at \$100,000. From 1977 to 1979, Foote failed to report over \$179,000 in income.

Foote was considered a fugitive until he was arrested entering the United States from

Portugal, in September 2005.

“Our system depends on the voluntary compliance of citizens with our shared responsibility to pay taxes. Prosecution of individuals who intentionally conceal income and evade taxes is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system” said U.S. Attorney Murphy.

“It is the responsibility of every taxpayer to file federal tax returns. IRS Criminal Investigation is committed to aggressively pursuing those taxpayers who willfully fail to file their tax returns, even if, in this case, it takes years,” said Aouate.

United States Attorney Murphy thanked the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation for their investigation of the case. The United States was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Richard L. Delonis.



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June 7, 2006

EVENT: Safe Child Wrap-up

SAFE CHILD SUCCESS STORY

More than 75 parents, teachers and other public leaders attended the first community forum on Child Exploitation, Prevention and Enforcement hosted by U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy at the Oakland County Government Center last night.

The event, held at the Oakland County Board of Commissioner's Auditorium, consisted of a panel of highly skilled and educated prosecutors and law enforcement officials who addressed the hidden dangers that the Internet poses as it becomes more accessible to on-line sexual predators, abusers and pornographers who target our children. Compelling presentations were made by Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorcyca, FBI Special Agent in Charge Dan Roberts, Department of Justice Child Exploitation chief Drew Oosterbaan, and FBI Child Forensic Interviewer Katie Connell – as well as United States Attorney Murphy and senior members of his staff.

“This all star panel and the sizable number of citizens who came out to hear from it gives me great satisfaction: it means that our efforts to work with the community, to hear from them and to dialogue on the issue of criminal exploitation of children is working,” said an obviously exhilarated United States Attorney Murphy.

The event was also the sort of community interaction called for by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales in his new Project Safe Childhood initiative. It was the first such forum to be held by a United States Attorney in conjunction with that initiative.

All citizens who attended were provided the necessary tools and information to help detect and report possible crimes being committed over the Internet. Attendees were also provided with written and other materials designed to heighten awareness about child exploitation as well as to explain ways in which parents might detect and stop these crimes against children.

The event provided an opportunity for the public to become more aware of United States Attorney Murphy's aggressive, three month old strategy to prevent, investigate and prosecute individuals to seek to harm children. Specifically, the panelists described a joint strategy for building on existing partnerships with state and local law enforcement agencies to capitalize on the experience each agency brings in the fight against child predators. In addition, policies were evaluated under scenarios that would enable prosecutors to seek the maximum legally permissible sentences in such cases. Finally, the panel discussed plans to intensify and redouble enforcement and community education programs.

Stefanie S., a school bus driver and parent from Farmington Hills, said she was happy Murphy made an effort to bring this group into the community. She indicated that the information provided and the level of commitment shown by the public officials was impressive.

"This panel turned the spotlight on a dark corner of the Internet," said U.S. Attorney Murphy, "I am confident that this type of program is offers an effective model that could be duplicated by other United States Attorney's Offices across the country as we try to implement the Attorney General's directives to take action."

Mr. Murphy expressed thanks to the panelists who appeared, to the members of the community who attended, to the team at his office who successfully put together the event and to the local print, television and radio media outlets for their help in publicizing the forum.



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June 22, 2006

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Deondre Byrd et al

**FOUR WASHTENAW COUNTY RESIDENTS
INDICTED ON DRUG AND MURDER CHARGES**

Federal charges brought after five-year "cold case" investigation

A federal grand jury in Detroit has returned an indictment against Deondre Byrd, 31, Terrance Smith, 24, Eric Murray, 28 and Ronald Henderson, 29, on drug and murder charges in relation to the June 10, 2001 killings of three persons in Ypsilanti, Michigan, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Acting Special Agent in Charge Thomas Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Commander Dave Egeler, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office and Captain Annemarie Gibson, Commander of East Region Special Investigation Division, Michigan State Police.

According to the four-count indictment, which was returned on June 21, 2006 and unsealed today, in June, 2001, Byrd, Smith, Murray and Henderson planned an armed home invasion at 655 Oswego, Ypsilanti, Michigan for the purpose of stealing controlled substances

and money. When the four men arrived at the home, Murray and Henderson waited outside the home while Byrd and Smith, wearing masks and carrying firearms, entered the residence. Once inside the home, Byrd shot the family dog, and when shot 14 year old Jesse Post in the head after Jesse became upset over the dog. Byrd and Smith ordered Willie Lamont Jones, at gunpoint, to retrieve any drugs and money in the home then discharged the firearms, killing Willie Lamont Jones, 30, his girlfriend Gerylanne Harris, 40. Byrd and Smith then took crack cocaine, marijuana and currency from a back bedroom, and shot Gerylanne's son, Jesse Post, six more times as they left the home.

“The heinous murders alleged in the Indictment, linked as they so often are with drug trafficking, show how illegal drugs can spawn violence and brutal behavior”, said United States Attorney Murphy. “The local and federal agencies showed persistent determination is pursuing this case.”

Acting Special Agent in Charge Thomas Brandon, ATF said, “This indictment demonstrates what can be accomplished when all levels of law enforcement bring their particular expertise to bear in a criminal investigation.”

“The investigation into this mass murder has consumed a vast amount of time and effort by our deputies, detectives and the community for the last five years,” said Commander Dave Egeler of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. “It is very rewarding to bring the case to closure by bringing the responsible persons to justice.”

“The Michigan State Police is proud to be part of the unrelenting diligent and cooperation between agencies that brought these suspects to justice after 5 years,” said Captain Gibson.

Defendants Byrd, Smith and Henderson are all currently serving prison time on unrelated charges. Defendant Murray was arrested today in Tampa, Florida.

A conviction on the charge of Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine Base and Marijuana carries a statutory maximum penalty of 40 years in prison while a conviction on the charge of Murder carries a statutory maximum penalty of death. Any sentence in this case will be

imposed under the federal Sentencing Guidelines based on the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendants.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case could not have been possible without the coordinated efforts of the special agents of the ATF, Washentaw County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Diane Marion.



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June 28, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Verdict

Defendant: Donny G. Douglas et al

**ONE CURRENT UNION OFFICIAL AND ONE FORMER
UNION OFFICIAL WERE CONVICTED OF EXTORTION**

A current union officer and a former union officer from southeastern Michigan were found guilty on June 27, 2006 by a federal jury in Detroit on charges of conspiracy to demand from General Motors Corporation (GM) the authority to amend the terms of the national labor agreement between GM and the United Auto Workers (UAW) when they were not authorized to do so; and in conjunction with that, they were found guilty of conspiring to extort skilled trades positions of employment from GM for two individuals whom the union officers knew were not qualified or entitled to these positions, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, and James Vanderberg, Special Agent in Charge, United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations.

Found guilty of both offenses were Donny G. Douglas, 65, of Holly, Michigan, who is

employed as a UAW International Servicing Representative; and Jay D. Campbell, 65, of Davisburg, Michigan, who, at the time of the offenses, was employed as the Chairman of the Shop Committee and chief negotiator for UAW Local 594.

The jury deliberated for about seven hours over a period of just one day before returning the verdicts, concluding a four-week trial before United States District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds.

The evidence presented at trial showed that between approximately August 1995 and August 1997, Douglas and Campbell, using their union positions, conspired to demand from GM the hiring of Campbell's son and another individual, who was the son of a former union official, into skilled trades positions, when Douglas and Campbell knew those two individuals were not qualified for those positions and when such hiring was in violation of the normal hiring process that existed in the union contract with GM. Furthermore, these demands by Douglas and Campbell threatened to delay or prevent the settlement of various negotiations that occurred between Local 594 and GM during those three years, culminating with the threat to prolong an 87 day strike that occurred in 1997. As a result of these illegal demands by Douglas and Campbell, the two individuals were hired by GM into skilled trades positions so as to avert the continuation of the strike in 1997.

"Criminal extortion increases the costs of doing business for our local employers and contributes to undermined confidence in the integrity of our community's essential commercial activity," said United States Attorney Murphy. "We will never relent in our efforts to investigate, uncover, and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law any criminal extortion activity like this, which we consider to be serious and abusive of voluntary participation in the marketplace."

Both charges are felonies, and carry a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine under the Taft-Hartley Act, and a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine under the Hobbs Act.

Murphy commended the work of the agents of the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and the FBI.

A sentencing date of November 2, 2006 has been set. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Wouczyna and Trial Attorney Vincent J. Falvo, Jr. from the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section, Labor Management Unit in Washington, D.C., and assisted by agents of United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations and the FBI.



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June 27, 2006

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: William Lee Sparks

MAN INDICTED FOR DISTRIBUTING FENTANYL THAT CAUSED DEATH

Oakland County resident William Lee Sparks, 56, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of illegally distributing Fentanyl that caused the death of another individual who used the drug, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard, Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

The two-count indictment charges that between 2003 and September 5, 2005, Sparks distributed Fentanyl and other controlled substances in the Eastern District of Michigan. In particular, the indictment alleges that Sparks distributed Fentanyl between September 2 and 5, 2005 to a person identified as "J.L.C." The indictment further charges that on September 12, 2005, the individual identified as "J.L.C." died as a result of his use of the Fentanyl distributed to him by Sparks. Sparks also is charged with distributing codeine, Vicodin, oxycodone, hydrocodone, and Percocet.

"These charges underscore the seriousness with which my office and the FBI view the distribution and use of Fentanyl, as well as our strong commitment to investigating and prosecuting cases involving these highly dangerous substances," U.S. Attorney Murphy said.

“We are committed to using all resources available to protect the community from the horrors caused by the illegal distribution of dangerous prescription medications like Fentanyl.”

SAC Robert, said: “This indictment today demonstrates lives are literally at stake when patients illegally provide controlled substances to third parties and how local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies are working together to address the critical issue involving the controlled substance known as Fentanyl.”

Sheriff Bouchard, said “This case demonstrates the significant benefits that can come from agencies working together towards a common goal. The Sheriff’s office is pleased to have been part of this important investigation.”

The charge of Distribution of Controlled Substances carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 20 years in prison. Any sentence in this case will be imposed under the federal Sentencing Guidelines based on the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendant.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by agents and detectives of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, the FBI, the Department of Veterans Affairs--Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Gardey.



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June 27, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Joseph Jado

**Chicago Area Man Pleads Guilty to Arson Relating to Involuntary Servitude
of Eastern European Women at Detroit Area Strip Clubs**

Duay Joseph Jado, age 28, an Iraqi citizen residing in Skokie, Illinois area, pled guilty today to setting fire to the car of one of the victims of a conspiracy to force Eastern European women to work as exotic dancers in Detroit area strip clubs, Stephen J. Murphy, United States Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan, and Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, announced today. United States District Judge Victoria A. Roberts accepted Jado's guilty plea to a violation of the "Interstate Travel in Aid of Racketeering Enterprises" Act by crossing state lines in the Spring of 2004 in order to commit the arson.

According to the plea agreement and other public court records, following the escape of one of the dancers of "Beauty Search, Inc." – the corporate cover for the trafficking organization – a ring-leader of the organization paid Jado to set fire to the dancer's car in retaliation for her escape, for failing to repay an outstanding debt allegedly owed to Beauty Search, Inc., and to send a message to other dancers not to follow in her footsteps.

"We will pursue the investigation and prosecution of this human trafficking organization,

wherever the evidence leads,” said U.S. Attorney Murphy. “Human trafficking crimes evidence some of the most brutal and detestable behaviors that one human being can visit upon another. Today’s plea indicates our resolve to bring to justice all participants in this odious sort of criminal activity.”

“Human trafficking is nothing less than modern day slavery that targets some of the most vulnerable in our society,” said Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. “The Department of Justice will continue to pursue and prosecute anyone who attempts to profit from human suffering.”

“Sadly, this case is an example of the continued victimization of a woman ensnared by an international human trafficking organization,” said Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations (ICE) in Detroit. “Those who use threats of violence and intimidation against human trafficking victims can be certain that ICE and its partners will work to bring them to justice.”

United States Attorney Murphy further stated that with today’s plea, eight people have now been convicted of crimes associated with this trafficking conspiracy. On March 8, 2006, Aleksandr Maksimenko, of Livonia, Michigan, one of the ring-leaders of the scheme, pled guilty to conspiring to violate the civil rights of the dancers through involuntary servitude, as well as immigration and money laundering conspiracies. Another partner of Beauty Search, Inc., Michail Aronov, a Lithuanian citizen from the Chicago area, pled guilty to similar charges on September 8, 2005. Evgeniy Prokopenko and Alexander Bondarenko, two Ukrainian citizens residing in Brooklyn, NY, pled guilty to visa fraud on September 9, 2005, admitting that they entered into sham marriages in 2004 with two of the dancers in order to permit the dancers to gain entry into the United States. On November 1, 2005, Anna Gonikman-Starchenko, a Ukrainian citizen living in the Detroit metro area, pled guilty to obstruction-related charges stemming from actions taken following the arrests of Maksimenko and Aronov. On November 3, 2005, Niki Papoutsaki, a Greek citizen living in the Detroit metro area, pled guilty to misprision of a felony in connection with obstruction-related activity. Finally, on February 14, 2006, Valentina Maksimenko, a naturalized U.S. citizen residing in the Chicago area, pled guilty to a conspiracy to obstruct justice during the course of the federal investigation.

Jado remains in custody pending his sentencing. He faces a statutory maximum sentence of up to five years in prison. The parties agreed that under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines an appropriate sentence for Jado is 37 to 46 months in prison.

The government's investigation and prosecution of others involved in the trafficking scheme is continuing. The case is being investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and the State Department Diplomatic Security Service. Assistant United States Attorney Mark Chutkow and Luis de Baca, Senior Litigation Counsel at the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section, are prosecuting the case. Peter Ziedas, Assistant United States Attorney is handling the asset forfeiture part of the case.



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June 28, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Verdict

Defendant: Lawrence Nelson

DETROIT MAN CONVICTED OF ESCAPE

A 62-year-old Detroit man was found guilty late yesterday by a federal jury in Detroit on a charge of escape from the Milan Federal Detention Center, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Robert M. Grubbs, United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Found guilty was Lawrence Nelson. The jury deliberated for less than ten minutes before returning the verdict, concluding a three-day trial before United States District Judge Denise Page Hood.

The evidence presented at trial showed that on August 6, 2005, Nelson – who was in custody at Milan following the revocation of parole which stemmed from a 20-year drug conviction – had been granted a 12-hour furlough to attend a memorial service for his wife. He was to report back to Milan at 8:00 p.m. that evening but failed to do so. Nelson was tracked down and apprehended 38 days after his escape by a team of deputy federal marshals.

The defendant testified at trial that he did not attend his wife's memorial service. Instead, he took up residence with a girlfriend.

"It goes without saying that all those committed to federal custody must serve the entire time allotted to them. As this case amply demonstrates, any criminal who seeks to escape from prison and undermine the safety of our community will face intensive pursuit, capture, unrelentingly aggressive prosecution, and upon conviction, far more time in prison than they originally were given," United States Attorney Murphy said.

"Marshal Grubbs said, "This case demonstrates the tenacity with which our deputies work on a daily basis involving fugitive investigations."

Murphy commended the work of the Deputy Marshal's that were involved in this case and personnel from the Milan Federal Detention Center.

A sentencing date has been set for October 19, 2006. Nelson faces a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leonid Feller.