



# Department of Justice

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## ILLEGAL LIQUOR PRODUCERS PROSECUTED

### *“Moonshining” Still A Law Enforcement Concern In Parts Of Georgia*

Gainesville, GA - BRETT JARRARD, 46, MAX MOSS, 69, and TERRY SINGLETON, 63, all of Clayton, Georgia; and KELLY STANDRIDGE, 65, of Westminster, South Carolina, were arraigned in federal court today on charges of unlawful manufacture, possession, transportation, and transfer of liquor (“moonshine”), and related tax evasion charges. All four defendants entered pleas of not guilty and were released on bond. The defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury on the charges on July 24, 2007.

“The manufacture and distribution of illegal, unregulated, and potent mash liquor has the potential for serious consequences for those who consume it,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “The act of making illegal liquor using an unregistered distilling apparatus, a “still,” bottling it and selling it to others without the authority of the Treasury Department and without paying the applicable taxes can also bring the serious consequences of tax liability, fines, and imprisonment. This indictment and the arrests of these defendants by the ATF shows that such offenders still face federal prosecution.”

“Nothing taps into the legacy of ATF quite like investigations into the manufacture, distribution and possession of untaxed distilled spirits,” said ATF Special Agent in Charge Vanessa McLemore. “Although they have undoubtedly declined since the days of Prohibition, such cases are far from trivial. Moonshiners deny the government revenue, encroach upon legitimate industry, and pose a significant health risk to those who consume their illegal product.”

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the charges and other information presented in court: JARRARD and MOSS allegedly operated a still on federal property in the Chattahoochee National Forrest in Rabun County, in northeast Georgia, during 2005 and 2006. The men produced “mash” and, after a period of fermentation, distilled it (using a “still”) into a clear and highly potent liquor known as “moonshine.” The moonshine was bottled and crated, then sold to individuals throughout the area, including SINGLETON and STANDRIDGE. The still operation was not authorized by the Treasury Department, nor were taxes ever paid on the manufacture, bottling, or sale of the

moonshine.

The indictment charges JARRARD and MOSS in six counts with violations of federal revenue laws that make it federal crimes to unlawfully manufacture and transfer distilled liquor and to fail to pay taxes on such an operation. The charges carry a maximum total sentence of thirty years in prison and a fine of up to \$150,000, plus back taxes, penalties, and interest on the taxes. SINGLETON, STANDRIDGE, and JARRARD are each charged with one count of unlawful receipt of untaxed liquor, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the United States Forestry Service, and the Georgia Department of Revenue, with assistance from the Rabun County Sheriff's Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys Todd C. Alley and Thomas A. Devlin are 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.

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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).