



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 20, 2008
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WOMAN SENTENCED FOR DRUG CONSPIRACY

MOBILE, Ala. - Verlissa Campbell, 37, of Fairhope, was sentenced today in federal court for her participation in a methamphetamine distribution operation which included drug suppliers bringing methamphetamine from Mexico to Alabama for distribution. Campbell was one of those implicated in the scheme as a local distributor, along with her common law husband and co-defendant Michael Collier. In a tearful sentencing hearing, Campbell repeatedly told United States District Court Judge Kristi Dubose that she was sorry. Campbell begged the judge for mercy because she has a six-month-old baby.

Assistant United States Attorney Gloria Bedwell urged the judge to sentence Campbell to the low end of the advisory sentencing guidelines, 87 months imprisonment, as a reasonable sentence under the circumstances of the case. She cited federal statutory authority requiring the sentencing judge to take into account the seriousness of the drug trafficking offense as well as the need to promote respect for the law and just punishment for the crime. She also stated that 87 months imprisonment was necessary to afford deterrence to others for similar criminal conduct involving methamphetamine distribution.

Judge Dubose told Campbell that she was impressed by the number of letters from people supportin Campbell, identifying her as a caregiver for sick and needy people and a worker in the church. The judge disagreed with the prosecutor and found that even the low end of the advisory guideline sentence was too high. The judge imposed a sentence of 48 months in Campbell's case, and ordered that she undergo drug treatment while in prison. The sentence is to be followed by a five-year term of supervised release. Campbell was remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal and was removed from the courtroom to begin serving her sentence. Collier's sentencing is set for May 9, 2008, also before Judge Dubose.

The case was investigated by the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office, the Baldwin County Drug Task Force and the Drug Enforcement Administration's HIDTA Task Force.