



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa

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ORLANDO GUN DEALER SENTENCED FOR SELLING FIREARMS TO CONVICTED FELONS

Orlando, Florida - Chief United States District Judge Patricia C. Fawsett today sentenced an Orlando man, Jacquelin Louis, 33, to a term of 27 months in federal prison for two counts of sale of a firearm to a convicted felon. In addition to the prison term, Louis must serve two years supervised release. Louis previously had been found guilty of the charges after a jury trial on November 29, 2007.

According to the evidence presented at trial, Louis operated as a federally licensed firearms dealer in the Pine Hills area of Orlando. On two separate occasions in October and November 2006, Louis met with multi-convicted felons who wanted to purchase firearms. Louis assisted both felons in obtaining firearms and those purchases led to an investigation by the ATF Orlando office. The ATF investigation resulted in the federal indictment of Louis charging him with providing a convicted felon with a firearm.

U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill stated, "Our message is clear, sell a gun to a convicted felon and you will go to prison. Taking guns out of the hands of violent offenders continues to be a top priority at the Department of Justice."

Special Agent in Charge of the Tampa Field Division, Virginia O'Brien stated, "Today's sentencing of Jacquelin Louis is a result of the dedication and hard work by the

men and women of the ATF Orlando office. This investigation highlights one of ATF's primary functions, which is to enforce the federal firearms laws and keep guns from those who cannot legally possess them."

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office and ATF. This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill and Virginia O'Brien, ATF Special Agent in Charge, are coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.