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## **ST. LANDRY PARISH DRUG DEALERS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT**

**Lafayette, Louisiana** . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that BRIAN KEITH CLARK, age 30, of Opelousas, Louisiana, and JAMES CLARK, age 35, of Opelousas, Louisiana, were sentenced this week by United States District Judge Rebecca F. Doherty for drug trafficking charges. BRIAN CLARK was sentenced to a term of 60 months in prison. JAMES CLARK was sentenced to a term of 97 months in prison.

BRIAN and JAMES CLARK were indicted in November 2002 and in a Superseding Indictment in September 2004 on several counts of distribution of crack cocaine, possession with intent to distribute cocaine and possession with intent to distribute hydrocodone. BRIAN CLARK pled guilty in September 2006 to possession with intent to distribute cocaine. JAMES CLARK pled guilty in November 2008 to distribution of crack cocaine.

The last two remaining arrests stemming from the DEA's 2002 Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) deployment in Opelousas came to a close this week when BRIAN and JAMES CLARK were sentenced after years of delay on various legal issues, primarily whether BRIAN CLARK was fit

to stand trial. BRIAN and JAMES CLARK pled guilty to federal charges of distribution of crack cocaine in Opelousas and admitted to doing the same on multiple occasions. JAMES CLARK, the last remaining defendant, was arrested for distribution of crack by the Opelousas Police Department while on pre-trial release on the eve of his federal trial, and pled guilty to the 2002 federal charges shortly thereafter.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Agency and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Myers P. Namie.

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