



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington  
Western District of Louisiana*

---

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600  
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

---

For Immediate Release  
April 16, 2009

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)  
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

## **FORMER POLICE CHIEF SENTENCED ON FIREARMS CHARGES**

Alexandria, Louisiana: CLAUDE E. WILLIAMS, 52, of Boyce, Louisiana, will spend the next 33 months in prison for federal firearms charges, United States Attorney Donald Washington announced today. United States District Judge Dee D. Drell also imposed 3 years of supervised release to be served after his sentence, a \$2,000 fine, and 120 hours of community service.

The former Chief of Police of Boyce, Louisiana, was convicted December 3, 2008, by a federal jury of three counts of possessing unregistered firearms after a three-day trial in United States District Court in Alexandria. WILLIAMS was acquitted on two counts of making false statements to federal law enforcement agents. WILLIAMS illegally took personal possession of prohibited weapons that were seized from individuals by his police department.

As part of a joint investigations by the FBI, ATF and the Rapides Parish District Attorney's Office, law enforcement authorities executed a search warrant in September 2007 at the Boyce Police Department, and later searched Williams' home and vehicle. The FBI seized an M-16 rifle from Williams' residence and a sawed-off rifle and sawed-off shotgun from his vehicle. The M-16 rifle qualifies as a machine gun under federal law. All three weapons were originally seized during criminal investigations by the Boyce

Police Department. All three are prohibited weapons for personal use unless they are registered under federal law.

WILLIAMS also faces state charges of Malfeasance in Office. Trial on those charges is scheduled for August 2009 in Alexandria.

U. S. Attorney Donald Washington stated: “Those who are commissioned to enforce the law must be obedient to the law. Most law enforcement officers discharge their duties faithfully. This defendant officer ignored his oath and abused the trust that we place in commissioned officers. For that, he has become a convicted felon who must now endure a period of time in federal prison.”

This case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Shreveport Field Office, Special Agent John Pias, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Alexandria Resident Agency, Special Agent Randy Deaton, in conjunction with the Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office and was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney James G. Cowles.

###