



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Jim Cross

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters

1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office

444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office

500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News releases available at www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/

September 17, 2004

TOPEKA MAN SENTENCED IN DRUG CASE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Cleon T. McKinney**, 31, Topeka, was sentenced Sept. 14, 2004, by U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow on one count of **conspiracy to distribute cocaine powder**.

Melgren said McKinney was sentenced to 84 months in prison, without parole, to be followed by four years of supervised release.

McKinney entered a guilty plea March 30, 2004. Melgren said that at his plea, McKinney admitted that on March 11, 2003, he was driving a black Cadillac that pulled up to a location on the west side of Topeka for a prearranged meeting with investigators posing as drug buyers. Special Agent Bruce Stukey of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives received a package from the car containing 1,698 grams of cocaine hydrochloride, commonly known as powder cocaine. When the agents announced their identifies and told McKinney he was under arrest, McKinney drove out of the parking lot at a high rate of speed and led police on a chase that ended when he wrecked his car and was arrested. McKinney drove in excess of 100 mph and outpaced patrol cars and a police helicopter.

Melgren commended the work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive's Violent Crimes Task Force and the Topeka Police Department in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Hendershot in the prosecution.