



Department of Justice

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LEAD DEFENDANT MATHIS SENTENCED TO OVER 21 YEARS IN DRUG, MONEY LAUNDERING SCHEME

ATLANTA --ROLAND MATHIS, 39, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced today to 21 years, 8 months in federal prison to be followed by 10 years of supervised release by United States District Judge Jack T. Camp, on charges of conspiring to distribute cocaine and marijuana, two counts of cocaine distribution, conspiracy to launder money, and 11 counts of money laundering, in connection with a drug distribution and money laundering scheme. MATHIS was also ordered to forfeit \$2 million by Judge Camp. MATHIS was convicted by a federal jury of these charges on November 12, 2004. The jury also found that MATHIS had distributed at least 150 kilograms of cocaine and was an organizer or leader of the money laundering activity. Five co-defendants pleaded guilty to charges relating to their roles in concealing MATHIS' illegally obtained assets and for obstructing the federal investigation into MATHIS' drug trafficking and money laundering activities, and have also been sentenced.

United States Attorney David Nahmias said, "We are committed to putting drug dealers in jail and taking away the assets acquired through their illegal activity. Drug dealers often enlist others to place assets belonging to the drug dealer in their names. That was a factor in this case. The lesson to be learned from this case is not to put another person's assets in your name, and not to make false statements to law enforcement or grand juries when they ask questions about such assets."

Other co-defendants related to this case have already been sentenced for their roles:

On January 4, 2006, JUQUANA SIMS, 32, of Decatur, Georgia, was sentenced to 4 years in prison, 3 years of supervised release and 200 hours of community service. SIMS pleaded guilty on October 26, 2004, to making false declarations before the grand jury.

On January 4, 2006, DAVID MATHIS, 44, of Lithonia, Georgia, was sentenced to 1 year, 2 months in prison, 3 years of supervised release and 200 hours of community service. DAVID MATHIS pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice on November 2, 2004.

On January 4, 2006, JEROME MATHIS, 42, of Decatur, Georgia, was sentenced to 1 year, 2 months in prison, 3 years of supervised release and 200 hours of community service. JEROME MATHIS pleaded guilty on November 3, 2004, to being an accessory after-the-fact of money laundering.

On January 11, 2006, RAQUEL DAVIS, 36, of Duluth, Georgia, was sentenced to 3 years in prison, 3 years of supervised release and 200 hours of community service. DAVIS pleaded guilty on November 2, 2004, to being an accessory after-the-fact of money laundering.

On January 11, 2006, DERRICK COOPER, 53, of Mableton, Georgia, was sentenced to 3 years in prison, 3 years of supervised release and 200 hours of community service. Cooper pleaded guilty on October 26, 2004, to obstruction of a federal grand jury investigation.

According to Nahmias and the evidence in court: ROLAND MATHIS and others received large shipments of cocaine and marijuana from Texas. The drugs were usually hidden under cover loads of produce and transported in tractor trailers. The drugs were then distributed in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Mathis' earnings from drug trafficking were used to purchase a home in Country Club of the South and numerous expensive vehicles. The home and vehicles were titled in the names of others, including DAVID MATHIS, JEROME MATHIS, DERRICK COOPER and RAQUEL DAVIS. When authorities conducting the investigation inquired about these assets, co-defendants were not truthful about who truly owned them, made false statements to the grand jury, submitted false documents to the grand jury, and/or filed petitions seeking the return of vehicles seized by the DEA, falsely claiming that they had paid for and truly owned the vehicles in question, and that ROLAND MATHIS' money was not used to purchase them. Vehicles involved included several Mercedes, two Lexuses, a Jaguar and a Prowler.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: www.justthinktwice.com.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys Sandra Strippoli and Robert C.I. McBurney prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or F. Gentry Shelnett, Chief, Criminal Division, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.

