



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

www.usdoj.gov/usao/txw/index.html

Contact: Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

July 2, 2009

FORMER EL PASO DEA AGENT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney, announced that in El Paso this morning, George H. Brunner was sentenced to one year plus one day in federal prison for aiding and abetting false statements on a visa application.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Philip R. Martinez ordered that Brunner pay a \$3,000 fine and be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term. Judge Martinez also ordered Brunner to surrender by September 14, 2009, to begin serving his prison term.

On April 29, 2009, Brunner pleaded guilty and admitted that while employed as a Drug Enforcement Administration agent assigned to Juarez, Mexico, resident DEA office, he accepted money and gifts in exchange for assisting Mexican Nationals to fraudulently obtain non-immigrant visas in order to enter the United States.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Office of Professional Responsibility, the U.S. Department of State and the Department of Justice—Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney J. Brandy Gardes prosecuted this case on behalf of the government..

#####