



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Elizabeth M. Martinez
Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney
Public Affairs Officer
elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov
505.224.1469

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FLORIDA MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IN PRISON FOR FEDERAL METHAMPHETAMINE AND MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING CONVICTION

ALBUQUERQUE – U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that late yesterday afternoon, Joaquin Bassols, Jr., 33, of Miami, Fla., was sentenced to ten years of imprisonment for his methamphetamine and marijuana trafficking conviction. Bassols will serve a five-year term of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence.

In June 2010, Bassols and a co-defendant were charged in a four-count second superseding indictment alleging that the two men (1) conspired to distribute methamphetamine; (2) conspired to distribute marijuana; (3) possessed more than 50 grams of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; and (4) possessed marijuana with intent to distribute.

On Feb. 24, 2012, a federal jury found Bassols guilty of all four counts in the second superseding indictment after a four-day trial. The evidence at trial established that, on June 16, 2010, law enforcement authorities found a pound and a half of methamphetamine and 26 pounds of marijuana concealed in a car that Bassols was driving. According to the testimony, Bassols and the co-defendant had traveled from Miami to Phoenix, Az., where they rented a car and drove to Los Angeles, Ca. In Los Angeles, the two men obtained the methamphetamine and marijuana and travel expense money from a friend. Their plan to deliver the drugs to Miami was thwarted when they were stopped by the officer, who discovered the drugs. Testimony also established that Bassols and the co-defendant had transported drugs from Los Angeles to Miami on two prior occasions in April 2010. The jury deliberated for approximately 45 minutes before returning a guilty verdict.

The case was investigated by the DEA and the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Motor Transportation Division, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Nicholas J. Ganjei and James R.W. Braun.

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