



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin

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11th MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL PROSECUTION OF METHAMPHETAMINE LABS IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Charles "Mike" Bear, 39, Schofield, Wis., was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to nine years in prison, to be followed by a three-year period of supervised release, for conspiring to possess pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine from March 2009 to August 2009. Federal prison sentences are served without the possibility of parole.

The prosecution of Charles Bear was the result of an extensive and ongoing investigation conducted by the Merrill Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. To date, the cooperative local, state and federal investigation has resulted in the conviction of 16 people involved in over a dozen separate methamphetamine cooking operations from 2008 through 2010.

Within the past month, five other individuals pleaded guilty to similar charges of conspiring with others to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine. Bernard W. Robertson, 41, Tomahawk, Wis., pleaded guilty on May 3 and is scheduled to be sentenced on August 24. Michael B. Ritchie, 40, Merrill, Wis., pleaded guilty on June 3 and is scheduled to be sentenced on September 1. Larry G. Dole, 32, and Antonio P. Lance, 30, both of Merrill, pleaded guilty on May 6 and are scheduled to be sentenced on July 22, along with Jody R. Simon, 39, Merrill, who pleaded guilty on May 12.

Set forth below are the defendants who have previously been convicted and sentenced in federal court in connection with these investigations:

Name	Crime of Conviction	Sentence Imposed
Shawn Ably	conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine	6 years
Jake Barttelt	manufacture of methamphetamine	5 ½ years
Daniel Bohman	manufacture of methamphetamine	4 years
Joshua Graham	conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine	10 years
Chuck Groff	conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine	12 years
Paul Rasmussen	attempted manufacture of methamphetamine	5 years
David Bienfang	conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine	4 ½ years
Hal "Casey" Mulford	conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine	3½ years
Richard Koput	conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine	11 years
Christopher Schmeltzer	conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine	27 months

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson is handling the prosecution of these cases.

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