



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney Western District of Wisconsin

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FIFTEENTH DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN ST. CROIX TRIBAL DRUG INVESTIGATION

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Steven R. Lang, 30, Webster, Wis., was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Madison by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb for his role in distributing methamphetamine on St. Croix tribal lands from approximately 2005 to 2008. Chief Judge Crabb sentenced Lang to four years in prison without parole.

With today's sentencing, fifteen defendants have now been sentenced as a result of this investigation into drug dealing on St. Croix tribal lands. The previous defendants sentenced are set forth below:

Name	Crime of Conviction	Sentence Imposed
Joseph Merrill	Distribution of Crack Cocaine	4 years
Manley L. Williams	Distribution of Crack Cocaine	8 years, 4 months
Christifer Sonnenberg	Distribution of Crack Cocaine	5 years, 6 months
Jean Sonnenberg	Conspiracy to Distribute Crack Cocaine	19 years, 7 months
Bruce Sonnenberg	Conspiracy to Distribute Crack Cocaine	24 years, 4 months
Amanda Sonnenberg	Distribution of Crack Cocaine	3 years, 10 months
George Rainey	Distribution of Crack Cocaine	14 years

Name	Crime of Conviction	Sentence Imposed
Bruce Rainey	Distribution of Crack Cocaine	17 years, 6 months
Diana Martin	Conspiracy to Distribute Crack Cocaine	9 years
Margrette Cobb	Conspiracy to Distribute Crack Cocaine	13 years, 4 months
Andrew Sonnenberg	Distribution of Crack Cocaine	17 years, 6 months
Ericka J. Reynolds	Conspiracy to Distribute Crack Cocaine	1 year, 6 months
Shaleah Reynolds	Distribution of Crack Cocaine	2 years
Michael D. Hammond	Distribution of Crack Cocaine	12 years, 7 months

United States Attorney Sinnott stated that today's sentencing was the result of a long-term investigation being conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation; Federal Bureau of Investigation; St. Croix Tribal Police Department; Rice Lake Police Department; Barron County Sheriff's Department; Burnett County Sheriff's Department; Sawyer County Sheriff's Department; Polk County Sheriff's Department; the Native American Drug & Gang Initiative; and Wisconsin State Patrol.

As set out above, fifteen defendants have now been convicted of federal drug offenses as a result of this investigation. Four additional defendants have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing; six additional defendants were indicted on December 2, 2009, and are awaiting trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil is handling the prosecution of these cases.

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