



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney Western District of Wisconsin

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FOURTEENTH DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN ST. CROIX TRIBAL DRUG INVESTIGATION

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Michael D. Hammond, 33, Hayward, 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 crack cocaine on St. Croix tribal lands from approximately December 2007 to June 2008. Chief Judge Crabb sentenced Hammond to 12 years, 7 months in prison without parole. Hammond's sentence was increased because he has several prior drug and violent crime convictions in Sawyer County.

With today's sentencing, fourteen 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

Name	Crime of Conviction	Sentence Imposed
George Rainey	Distribution of Crack Cocaine	14 years
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 Hammond conspired with Ericka Reynolds, Shaleah Reynolds, Shannon Corbine, and others to obtain and distribute crack cocaine on St. Croix tribal lands from approximately December 2007 to approximately June 2008. Crack cocaine was obtained from sources in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and the drugs were then sold to customers on tribal lands in northwestern Wisconsin. During the first several months of 2008, an individual working with law enforcement officers purchased crack cocaine from Hammond and his co-conspirators on several occasions. Each of these purchases was recorded and monitored by law enforcement officers.

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 the Wisconsin State Patrol.

As set out above, fourteen defendants have now been convicted of federal drug offenses as a result of this investigation. Five additional defendants have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing; five additional defendants were indicted on December 2, 2009, and are awaiting trial; and one additional defendant charged on December 2, 2009, remains a fugitive.

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

cases.

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