



# NEWS RELEASE

**KAREN L. LOEFFLER  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

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Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse • 222 W. 7th Avenue • Room 253 • Anchorage, AK 99513 • (907) 271-5071

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, March 24, 2009**

**09-032**

**ANCHORAGE MAN SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS IN  
FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced today, March 24, 2009, that Jedidiah Ian Smith, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 30 months for his conviction of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline imposed the sentence on Smith, age 22.

According to information presented to the court by Special Assistant United States Attorney Christine M. Thoreson, law enforcement agents contacted Smith at an Anchorage Wal-Mart store during the investigation of an unrelated matter. Before being taken into custody, Smith, who is a felon, reached for a .45 caliber Glock semi-automatic handgun that he had stuffed into the waistband of his jeans. Pending trial, the Court released Smith to the Cordova Center, a local half-way house, on a lock-down basis. Within two weeks, Smith absconded from the Cordova Center and was on the run for a month and a half before being taken into custody by the U.S. Marshals Service.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Beistline stated that Smith has demonstrated a lack of respect for the law and that he earned a 30-month prison sentence. Judge Beistline urged Smith to use his time in prison to redefine himself.

Ms. Loeffler commended the Drug Enforcement Administration for the investigation leading to the sentence in this case, as well as the U.S. Marshals Service for its diligent search for Smith after he absconded from the Cordova Center. SAUSA Thoreson is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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