



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **C O R R E C T I O N**

### **ANCHORAGE MAN GETS 5 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR FIREARMS CRIMES**

Anchorage, Alaska – Acting United States Attorney Kevin Feldis announced that on May 15, 2009, Anthony Antjuan Rankin, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Fairbanks, Alaska to 60 months in prison for his conviction of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline imposed the sentence on RANKIN, age 26.

This matter was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Kelly Cavanaugh. Rankin was convicted during a stipulated facts trial in Fairbanks, Alaska on April 27, 2009. On September 5, 2008, Rankin was contacted by the Alaska State Troopers in St. Mary's, Alaska, at the St. Mary's airport soon after arriving on a flight from Anchorage. The defendant was carrying a loaded Fabrique Nationale, .40 caliber pistol inside his backpack. In the defendant's luggage, and the luggage of an individual he was traveling with, Troopers also found 30 rounds of .40 caliber ammunition as well as 36 750 ml bottles of alcohol. St. Mary's is a local option community where an individual is only permitted to import 6 750 ml bottles of alcohol per month for personal use. The defendant had previously been convicted of two felony offenses in Indiana. The court made a finding at sentencing that the defendant had stolen the firearm from an acquaintance in Anchorage prior to departing to St. Mary's.

While imposing sentence, Judge Beistline stated that carrying a loaded firearm on an airplane while illegally importing alcohol into a local option community created a significant public safety risk and created potentially dangerous circumstances to those on the airplane and in St. Mary's. The Judge fashioned his sentence to serve as a deterrent to Rankin and to others, as well as to promote respect for the law.

Mr. Feldis commended the Alaska State Troopers and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Rankin. Rankin was prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhood program, a nationwide commitment to reducing firearm and gang crime in America.

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