



Department of Justice

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LEON CARMICHAEL'S 40-YEAR SENTENCE AFFIRMED

Former Montgomery businessman Leon Carmichael's conviction and sentence was affirmed by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Carmichael was convicted in June 2005 of drug trafficking and money laundering and sentenced to 480 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson. Carmichael has been in custody since his conviction in 2005, Judge Thompson having ruled post-trial that Carmichael posed a threat to the community.

On June 17, 2005, after a nine day trial, a jury found Carmichael and co-defendant Freddie Williams guilty of a decade-long marijuana distribution scheme. In addition, Carmichael was convicted of money laundering. Prior to his conviction, Carmichael was a Montgomery businessman responsible for erecting and operating the Carmichael Center, a 3,000-seat entertainment venue in West Montgomery.

In sentencing Carmichael, Judge Thompson found, in accordance with the jury's verdict, that Carmichael was involved in a drug conspiracy that spanned more than ten years, from 1993 to 2003, and involved more than 7,000 pounds of marijuana. After his conviction in June 2005, Carmichael agreed to surrender to the government the Carmichael Center, up to \$1 million of property surrounding the Center, and one of his vehicles. This appeal was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Clark Morris and J.B. Perrine.