



Department of Justice

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Gun possession Results in Over 22 Years in Federal Prison for Armed Career Criminal

Montgomery, Alabama - Claude Jerome Wilson, II, age 45, of Columbus, Georgia, was sentenced in United States District Court in Montgomery to 22 years and 9 months in federal prison after being convicted of illegal gun possession, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Wilson was also sentenced to serve five years of supervised release under the supervision of a federal probation officer after his release from prison.

Wilson was convicted after a jury trial on January 27, 2009, of illegally possessing a Glock, 9 mm pistol. Wilson was prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal law because he was a convicted felon. Wilson has multiple prior felony convictions, including three Burglaries, Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, Theft by Taking, Escape, Aggravated Assault, Robbery, and Aggravated Stalking. Because Wilson had been convicted of at least three violent felonies, the United States District Court Judge found that Wilson qualified as an Armed Career Criminal under federal law. Any person who is convicted of possessing a firearm and has three prior felony convictions for violent felonies or serious drug offenses is considered to be an Armed Career Criminal and must be sentenced to at least 15 years in federal prison, as Wilson was in this case. There is no parole from federal prison.

At trial, Wilson was convicted of possessing a Glock, 9 mm pistol. At trial, the evidence showed that the victim of Wilson's prior Aggravated Stalking conviction discovered a photo in her mailbox of Wilson holding a gun on March 7, 2005. The photo was captioned, "I found

you.” The investigation confirmed that Wilson had possessed the pistol, which was owned by his sister, as depicted in the photograph. The victim was Wilson’s ex-wife, who had been subjected to a long history of violence by Wilson.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice’s Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Middle District of Alabama’s Alabama ICE (Isolating the Criminal Element) programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, “Claude Wilson posed a significant danger to the victim in this case. His violent criminal history, including convictions for aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, and stalking, show just how dangerous he is and why he cannot be permitted to possess a firearm. The sentence in this case will keep Wilson off of our streets for a long time, protecting the victim and our community.”

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Lee County Sheriff’s Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (“ATF”). The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorneys Christopher Snyder, Verne Spiers, and Matthew Shepherd.