



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington  
Western District of Louisiana*

---

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600  
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

---

For Immediate Release

May 27, 2009

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)

William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

## FELON CONVICTED ON FIREARMS CHARGES

### *Drive-By Shooting Results in Firearms Conviction*

**Monroe, Louisiana** . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that CARLOS A. HICKS, 36, of West Monroe, Louisiana, was convicted of firearms charges by a jury in federal court after a day and a half trial.

Trial testimony established that on November 6, 2007, officers with the Monroe Police Department responded to reports of a drive-by shooting at a home in Monroe. Two bullets had been fired into the home while the residents slept inside. Based on recent events, the homeowners identified HICKS as the shooter. Although HICKS initially fled, he was successfully apprehended through law enforcement efforts, as well as the use of a police K-9 officer.

Inside the vehicle HICKS had been driving at the time of the drive-by shooting, officers found a Smith & Wesson .40 caliber handgun, with two live bullets loaded into the

magazine. HICKS pleaded guilty in the Fourth Judicial District Court, Ouachita Parish, to committing assault by drive-by shooting. He was sentenced to serve one and a half years for that conviction. HICKS was also previously convicted of carjacking in Ouachita Parish on March 9, 1999.

Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon carries a maximum sentence of 10 years. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

U. S. Attorney Donald Washington stated: "Violence has been a way of life for this defendant. State and federal prosecutors and law enforcement officers must aggressively pursue these violent criminals and bring them to justice. In each case, my office will seek the longest possible prison terms for those who threaten public safety."

This case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001 and was designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. This case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Shreveport Field Office, Special Agent Robert Johnson, in conjunction with the Monroe Police Department and was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorneys Robin S. McCoy and C. Mignonne Griffing.

###