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NEW IBERIA MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT FOR POSSESSION OF AN UNREGISTERED SHORT-BARRELED SHOTGUN

Defendant received three years in federal prison, to run consecutive with State sentence

LAFAYETTE, La. - A New Iberia man was sentenced late yesterday afternoon to three years in federal prison, followed by a term of three years supervised release, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. Quinn Domingue, 23, was sentenced by United States District Judge Tucker L. Melancon for possession of an unregistered short-barreled shotgun.

Domingue was indicted in August 2008, and pleaded guilty on April 29, 2009, admitting that he possessed an unregistered short-barreled shotgun, namely, a New England Firearms Model SB1, single-shot, 12-gauge shotgun with a barrel that measured approximately 12 inches in length. The firearm was hidden beneath a sofa at Domingue's Youngsville residence, and was discovered by the Lafayette Metro Narcotics Unit while investigating suspected illegal drug activity. An investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) revealed that the sawed-off shotgun was determined to be in operating condition, and had never been registered with the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record (NFTR). Since 1968, when Congress enacted the National Firearms Act, federal law requires that firearms having a barrel length less than 18 inches be registered with the NFTR.

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On March 24, 2008, Domingue entered a guilty plea in the 15th Judicial District Court, Lafayette, La., to possession of 153 Lorcet (hydrocodone) tablets with intent to distribute, arising out of the same investigation. Domingue was later sentenced to serve a five-year term of imprisonment on the state charge. Judge Melancon ordered that the federal sentence run consecutive to the state sentence.

United States Attorney Donald W. Washington stated: “Project Safe Neighborhoods is a cooperative effort between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. We’ve learned that with teamwork, we can make a difference in our communities. When we invest in the fight against gun crimes, we choose the best course for the safety of our streets and neighborhoods. This office will continue the fight to decrease gun crime in our communities.”

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

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 designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws.

This case was investigated by ATF and the Lafayette Metro Narcotics Unit, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph T. Mickel.

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