



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley**  
**Western District of Louisiana**

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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

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CONTACT: STEPHANIE A. FINLEY  
PHONE: (337) 262-6618  
FAX: (337) 262-6783

## **DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT**

### *Defendant receives mandatory life sentence*

**LAKE CHARLES, La.** – A four-time convicted drug trafficker was sentenced yesterday to life in federal prison, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced. Courtney Zeno, 39, of Leesville, La., was sentenced by U. S. District Judge Patricia Minaldi, for distribution of crack cocaine and possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute.

Zeno was indicted on drug trafficking charges in May 2009. After a two-day trial on April 15, 2010, Zeno was found guilty on five counts of distribution of crack cocaine and one count of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

Testimony revealed that the defendant sold crack cocaine to undercover agents on six separate occasions in Leesville, La. On the day of Zeno's arrest, he was found in possession of an additional 129 grams of crack cocaine and a variety of pills including Morphine, Oxycodone, and Hydrocodone. Zeno also had \$40,000.00 cash in a safe at his residence.

Zeno received the statutory mandatory life sentence because he had two drug trafficking convictions prior to this conviction. He was on parole for one of those prior convictions when he committed the offenses charged in this case.

United States Attorney Finley stated: "Mr. Zeno has been in and out of prison all of his life and made a career out of drug dealing. Protecting the community against criminals who are committed to re-offending is a priority for this district. This sentence serves as a reminder to those who choose to traffic in illegal narcotics that you will be vigorously prosecuted and face the consequences of your actions."

This case was investigated by the Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney J. Collin Sims.

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