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**Banor Man Sentenced on Federal Firearms Charges**

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **James Christopher Law**, 40, formerly of Caribou, currently of Bangor, was sentenced on October 19, 2009, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, to 6 months of imprisonment, 2 years supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment, for the federal crimes of possession of a firearm after conviction for a domestic violence misdemeanor and after being convicted of a felony. Law pleaded guilty on April 9, 2009.

Court records reveal that in 1996, Law was convicted of a felony in Texas and sentenced to 60 days in jail. In 2001, Law was convicted in Maine of assault (of his then live-in girlfriend) and sentenced to 60 days in jail and 2 years probation; Law violated the probation in 2002 and was sentenced to 58 days in jail. Law and the victim of the assault lived together before the assault. The felony and assault convictions prohibited Law from possessing firearms.

In 2007, Presque Isle law enforcement officers received information that Law owned a handgun. When Law was stopped for driving after suspension, he was questioned by police about whether he owned any handguns. Law told police officers he did own a handgun that he and his wife had purchased together. At Law's apartment, his wife produced the handgun and a bill of sale for the handgun which confirmed what Law had told them.

This case was a part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative which coordinates the efforts of federal and state agencies in order to increase successful prosecution of firearms cases and educate potential offenders on the serious consequences of illegal gun use and possession. Domestic abuse is a significant problem in the State of Maine. Possession of firearms by domestic abusers is against federal law.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Presque Isle Police Department.

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