



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

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**Dunseith Man Sentenced for
Conspiracy to Distribute 100 or more Grams of Marijuana**

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that on July 14, 2009, **Lyle Lunday**, 35, of Dunseith, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on a charge of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute controlled substances.

The conspiracy, which operated in the Belcourt, North Dakota area, distributed several hundred pounds of marijuana between late 2001 and mid 2007. A majority of the marijuana was shipped from a California supplier to **Lunday** and others in the Belcourt area. **Lunday** and his associates would send money to a middleman in Colorado who would pay the supplier in California, who would then send more marijuana to North Dakota. **Lunday** admitted to his involvement in the conspiracy of at least 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of marijuana.

Judge Erickson sentenced **Lunday** to two and a half years in prison to be followed by four years of supervised release. **Lunday** was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund. **Lunday** was ordered to forfeit and pay to the United States a money judgement of \$182,500 in drug proceeds. An additional amount of

\$103,500 in drug money was seized by law enforcement officers in Durango, Colorado and Cando, North Dakota during the investigation.

Co-defendant Rocky Ronnie Demery was sentenced to 13 months in prison on February 2, 2009, for his role in the conspiracy. Co-defendant Lloyd Antoine Gunville was sentenced on May 1, 2009, to probation for two years with eight months of home detention for his lesser role in the conspiracy.

The case was jointly investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force in Fargo; the DEA Task Force in Durango, Colorado, including members of the Colorado State Police, La Plata County Sheriff's Office, and the Durango Police Department; and the DEA in San Diego, California. Assistance was also received from the North Dakota Highway Patrol, Bureau of Indian Affairs Police at Turtle Mountain, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Turtle Mountain Tribal Police, United States Postal Inspection Service and the Towner County State's Attorney's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney Scott J. Schneider prosecuted the case.

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