

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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JOSEPH MACK  
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desa0415.rel  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 15, 2008

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Second Defendant Admits Hunterdon County Bank Robbery

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(More)

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TRENTON – The second of a pair of bank robbers who robbed or attempted to rob three banks in Union and Hunterdon counties in April and July 2007 pleaded guilty today before U.S. District Judge Joel A. Pisano, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Sean Desa, 28, of Flemington, pleaded guilty to a one-count Information charging him with robbing the Yardville National Bank in Ringoes on July 5, 2007. Desa's co-conspirator, Jay Fleshman, pleaded guilty before Judge Pisano on March 4 to participating in the Yardville National Bank robbery, as well as committing the April 6 robbery of the Advanced Federal Credit Union in New Providence. As part of his plea, Fleshman also admitted that he attempted to rob the Commerce Bank in Springfield on April 4, 2007.

According to the terms of their respective plea agreements, Desa and Fleshman agreed to pay \$7,160 in restitution to Yardville National Bank and Fleshman agreed to pay \$8,909 to Advanced Federal Credit Union. At today's plea hearing, Desa admitted to possessing a B.B. gun when he approached the teller at the Yardville National Bank.

Desa admitted today that he and Fleshman composed a note which Desa handed to a teller upon entering the Yardville bank branch. The note, he admitted said, "Don't trip the alarm and give me the 100s, 50s and 20s."

Desa admitted that he left the bank with \$7,160 and got into a car driven by Fleshman.

Sentencing for Desa was scheduled for July 21. Fleshman's sentencing is scheduled for June 10. Desa and Fleshman both face a maximum statutory prison term of 20 years and a fine of \$250,000 for one count of bank robbery. Fleshman also pleaded guilty bank robbery conspiracy, which carries a statutory maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

While Judge Pisano must consult the advisory Sentencing Guidelines in formulating a sentence, he has wide discretion in imposing sentence. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all of that time.

Christie credited the work of Special Agents from the Franklin Township Resident Agency of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dunn, as well as members of the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Superintendent Col. Rick Fuentes, and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor J. Patrick Barnes, for their assistance in the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Mack, of the U.S. Attorney's Violent Crimes Unit.

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Defense Attorneys:

Ruth Liebesman, Esq., Woodridge (for Sean Desa)

Peter Carter, Esq., Newark (for Jay Fleshman)