

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor  
Camden, New Jersey 08101

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

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Camden Heroin Trafficker Sentenced to 262 Months in Federal Prison

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(More)

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CAMDEN – A Camden drug trafficker was sentenced to 262 months in federal prison today for conspiring to distribute wholesale quantities of heroin, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered Dennis Mass, 36, to pay a \$2,000 fine and to serve 5 years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. Mass has been held without bail since his arrest on Jan. 8, 2008.

On Aug. 7, Mass entered his plea before Judge Kugler to a one-count Information. At his plea hearing, Mass admitted that between July 2007 and January 2008, he conspired with Alejandro Lopez-Brand, 33, of Norwalk, Conn., and others to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute heroin in Camden. Mass admitted that over the course of the conspiracy he distributed and possessed with intent to distribute more than a kilogram of heroin in the Camden area.

At the time of Mass's arrest, law enforcement officers seized approximately \$247,000 in cash from a paper shopping bag in Mass's vehicle. As part of Mass's guilty plea, he agreed the money represented drug trafficking proceeds and forfeited the funds to the government.

Lopez-Brand pleaded guilty on April 18, to a one-count Information charging him with distribution of heroin. Lopez-Brand was sentenced to 78 months in prison on July 29, 2008.

In determining the sentence, Judge Kugler consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, was not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the DEA's Camden Resident Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, and Police officers with the Camden Police Department, under the direction of Chief John Scott Thomson, with investigation of the case.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Skahill, of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Leonard S. Baker, Esq. Haddonfield