

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Trenton Drug Dealer Sentenced to 188 Months in Federal Prison for
Possession of Crack Cocaine and Illegally Possessing a Firearm

(More)

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TRENTON – A Trenton cocaine dealer was sentenced today to 188 months in federal prison for distribution and possession with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine and for being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Joel A. Pisano also ordered Shawn Riley, 29, to serve 5 years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. Riley has remained in custody since his arrest on a fugitive warrant in Georgia on October 12, 2006.

On Nov. 7, 2007, Riley pleaded guilty before Judge Pisano to Counts One and Three of a three-count Indictment, which was returned on Aug. 17, 2006. Count Two, which charged the defendant with possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, was dismissed at sentencing.

At his plea hearing, Riley admitted that on June 20, 2006, he was in possession of between 500 grams and 2 kilograms of cocaine, a Taurus .38 caliber revolver and a box of .38 caliber ammunition. Riley admitted that it was his cocaine that officers found in a bathroom during the execution of a search warrant by Trenton Police Officers at a residential dwelling located on South Broad Street. Riley admitted that prior to his possession of the firearm, he was convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year in a court in the State of New Jersey, and as such, was prohibited from possessing firearms.

Riley was arrested as a result of an investigation by Police officers with the Trenton Police Department and Special Agents with the DEA, along with the assistance of investigators with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office and the ATF. The case was adopted for federal prosecution.

At the time of his arrest, Riley was serving a New Jersey parole term for a prior conviction. Riley fled the state and became a fugitive and parole absconder. The U.S. Marshal Service's Fugitive Task Force arrested Riley on October 12, 2006 in Georgia.

In determining the sentence, Judge Pisano 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, under the direction of Special Agent in

Charge Gerard P. McAleer in Newark, and Police Officers with Trenton Police Department, under the direction of Public Safety Director Joseph J. Santiago, with the the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick C. Askin of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Trenton.

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Defense Attorney: Brian Reilly, Esq. Federal Public Defender's Office, Trenton