

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 6, 2008

Leader of M.O.B. Boys Sentenced to 360 months in Federal Prison for Powder and Crack Cocaine Distribution

(More)

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TRENTON – One of the leaders of a major Camden drug-trafficking organization known as the “M.O.B. Boys” was sentenced to 360 months in federal prison today for his role in a drug conspiracy that was responsible for the distribution of multiple kilogram quantities of powder cocaine and large quantities of crack cocaine through the group’s street drug sets and other Camden area drug dealers, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Freda L. Wolfson also ordered Rashad Smith, 35, of Gloucester Township, to pay a \$2,500 fine and to serve eight years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. Smith has been detained since his arrest on May 7, 2006.

Also today, Judge Wolfson sentenced Rashan Williams, 27, of Camden, who was one of the M.O.B. Boys suppliers of powder cocaine. Judge Wolfson sentenced Williams to 96 months in prison and ordered him to pay a \$500 fine and to serve two years of supervised release. William pleaded guilty before Judge Wolfson on Dec. 14, 2007, to two counts of using a communication facility in furtherance of a drug conspiracy.

On Aug. 17, 2007, Smith pleaded guilty before Judge Wolfson to a one-count Superseding Information that charged him with conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of powder cocaine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine.

At his plea hearing, Smith admitted that from about January 1998 until May 2006 he participated in the sale of crack cocaine in the area of 1200 Block of Morton Street in Camden. Smith stated there was an agreement between him, Troy Clark, 39, of Camden, Jermaine Coleman, 36, of Camden, and Trevor Smith, 36, of Berlin Township, (no relation), to sell crack on the 1200 block of Morton Street as the “Middle of the Block Boys” or the M.O.B. Boys.

On May 17, 2006, federal, state and local law enforcement authorities announced that the notorious crack and powder cocaine distribution organization had been dismantled and that Smith and three other leaders of M.O.B. Boys and 16 co-conspirators were charged in federal criminal Complaints. According to the Complaints, the drug gang was responsible for the distribution of multiple kilograms of powder and crack cocaine through both bulk distribution quantities to other drug traffickers and end user quantities sold at open air drug markets in the city.

The arrests were the result of a multi-agency investigation by the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force and the Camden High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task force, which began in January 2004.

Smith was arrested on state charges on May 7, 2006, as a result of a vehicle stop in which he was found to be in possession of 13.5 ounces of crack cocaine. Clark was arrested at his residence on the morning of the announcement that the gang had been dismantled in a series

of early morning raids. Coleman and Trevor Smith were fugitives at the time of the announcement and both subsequently surrendered on May 31, 2006. Clark, Coleman and Trevor Smith have each pleaded guilty to drug charges and await sentencing. All other co-defendants have entered guilty pleas.

Prior news releases concerning the dismantling of the M.O.B. Boys organization and Smith guilty plea can be found by following the appropriate links on the office's website at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

In determining the actual sentences, Judge Wolfson 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, is 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 FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarck, Philadelphia Division, and Investigators with member agencies of the Camden HIDTA Task Force, with the ongoing investigation.

The Camden HIDTA Task Force comprises the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Acting Prosecutor Joshua M. Ottenberg; the Camden Police Department, under the direction of Chief Edward Hargis; the Camden County Sheriff's Department, under the direction of Sheriff Charles H. Billingham; the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent; the Delaware River Port Authority Police, under the direction of Chief Vincent J. Borelli; The FBI's Philadelphia Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarck; the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer in Newark; the U.S. Marshal's Service, under the direction of U.S. Marshal James T. Plousis; and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark Potter, in Philadelphia.

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

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Defense Attorney: Scott Krasny, Esq. West Trenton