

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
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Camden, New Jersey 08101

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***Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 8, 2009

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## Moorestown Man Admits Committing Two Carjackings and an Armed Bank Robbery

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(More)

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**Breaking News (NJ)** <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

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CAMDEN – A Moorestown man pleaded guilty today to federal charges, admitting he committed carjackings in Burlington and Camden counties and an armed bank robbery in Moorestown, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr., announced.

William Berger, 36, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle to two counts of carjacking, one count of bank robbery and one count of use of a firearm in furtherance of a violent crime. Judge Simandle continued the defendant's detention and scheduled sentencing for Sept. 25.

At his plea hearing, Berger admitted that on Dec. 11, 2008, he approached a woman outside a Dollar Tree store located in Moorestown and pointed a .38 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver at the woman's chest and demanded her car keys. The woman surrendered her keys and Berger fled in the victim's Chevrolet Cobalt, he admitted.

Berger admitted that on Dec 13, he drove the stole vehicle to a gas station in Pennsauken, had the attendant gas up the vehicle and then drove away without paying for the gas.

Berger further admitted that on Dec. 15, he entered the Liberty Bank branch, located on Camden Ave. in Moorestown, and placed a black handgun on the teller's counter and demanded money. Berger admitted that he then fled the bank with approximately \$1,300 and drove off in the stolen Cobalt. The car was subsequently abandoned and recovered in Camden.

On Dec. 27, Berger approached an elderly woman in the parking lot of a Walmart in Cherry Hill and demanded her car keys while brandishing a knife, he admitted. Berger then fled the parking lot in the victim's car. Shortly thereafter, Cherry Hill Police broadcasted a description of the vehicle to surrounding police departments. Later that same day, Camden Police Officers observed the stolen vehicle being operated by Berger in the same area where the Cobalt had been recovered. The vehicle was stopped by police and Berger was arrested on outstanding warrants.

On Feb 5, 2009, Berger made his first appearance in first federal court before U.S. Magistrate Ann Marie Donio on a two-count federal criminal Complaint that charged him with carjacking and bank robbery. Judge Donio ordered Berger detained pending trial.

Each of the two carjacking counts carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of 25 years and a fine of \$250,000. The bank robbery count carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of 25 years and a fine of \$250,000. The count of use, brandishing or carrying a firearm in furtherance of a violent crime carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of life and a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Simandle will consult 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.

Marra credited Special Agents of the FBI's Trenton Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Robert D. Bernardi, the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Warren Faulk, the Camden Police Department, under the direction of Chief Scott Thomson, and the Morristown Police Department, under the direction of Harry Johnson, Director, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Richardson in the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Maggie Moy, Esq. Assistant Federal Public Defender