

NEWS

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



Paul J. Fishman, U.S. Attorney

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Assistant U.S. Attorneys
MATTHEW T. SMITH
JAMES P. LYNCH
856-757-5104 and 856-757-5031, respectively

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Camden Man Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine

(More)

Greg Reinert, PAO
Public Affairs Office

856-757-5233
973-645-2888

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CAMDEN – A Camden man pleaded guilty today for his role in a conspiracy which sought to transport kilogram quantities of cocaine from Texas to the Camden area, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Angelo Soldevila, 65, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Renée Marie Bumb to a one-count Superseding Information that charges him with conspiring with Daniel Vicenty and others to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute cocaine. Judge Bumb continued the defendant's detention and scheduled sentencing for April 9.

At his plea hearing, Soldevila admitted that from November 2008 until March 2009, he sought to facilitate his nephew's, Daniel Vicenty, 28, of Camden, attempt to purchase kilogram-quantities of cocaine from an individual in Texas.

According to Soldevila, in November and December 2008, he had a series of meetings in Camden with a person he knew as "Ricky" regarding the potential purchase of cocaine. During the meetings, Soldevila and Ricky discussed, among other things, the current price of a kilogram of cocaine and Ricky's source of cocaine in Texas.

Soldevila admitted that in early 2009, he had a telephone conversation with an individual he believed was Ricky's cocaine supplier in Texas, who he knew as "El Profe." Soldevila told El Profe that his nephew would be interested in traveling to Texas to discuss purchasing kilograms of cocaine and then put El Profe in touch with Vicenty, he admitted. According to Soldevila, Vicenty traveled to Texas on two occasions to arrange the drug deal. After each trip, Soldevila spoke with Vicenty about the potential purchase of cocaine, he admitted.

Soldevila admitted that on March 23, 2009, he learned that Vicenty had been arrested earlier in the day while attempting to purchase the cocaine. Soldevila was arrested on March 24, 2009, by Special Agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The charge to which Soldevila pleaded guilty carries a statutory maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$1 million.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Bumb 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.

Fishman credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Matthew T. Smith and James P. Lynch of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Henry F. Furst, Esq. Upper Montclair