

NEWS

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Westville Man Sentenced to 167 Months in Federal Prison for Committing Four Bank Robberies

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Westville man was sentenced to 167 months in federal prison today for committing four bank robberies in Camden and Gloucester Counties, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered Phillip Jones, 43, to pay \$8,265 in restitution and to serve 3 years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

Jones pleaded guilty before Judge Kugler on July 8, 2009, to a one-count Information that charges him with bank robbery. At his plea hearing, Jones admitted that in less than a three-week period, in April and May of 2009, he robbed four banks by presenting demand notes to bank tellers, in which he claimed to have a gun. Furthermore, Jones admitted that in one of those robberies he displayed the butt of a handgun that was tucked into his waistband.

Jones admitted committing the following bank robberies;

- April 25, 2009, St. Edmonds Savings Bank in Deptford, of approximately \$4,607,
- May 5, 2009, Sun National Bank in Gloucester Township, of approximately \$1,133,
- May 11, 2009, TD Bank in Glassboro, of approximately \$292,
- May 13, 2009, TD Bank in Woodbury, of approximately \$2,233.

Jones admitted that in each of the robberies he placed the money in a black zippered notebook pad prior to flee the banks.

Jones was arrested on May 15, 2009, as he left his apartment by police officers with the Westville Police Department. At the time of Jones's arrest, police recovered a black zippered notebook pad, approximately \$1,800 and a replica pistol.

The arrest was in part due to a caller's tip after viewing a news broadcast which included a photograph of the suspect and the offer of a reward for information leading the suspect's arrest.

In determining the actual 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, 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 FBI's South Jersey Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarczyk in Philadelphia, the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Sean F. Dalton, Camden County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk, and the Police Departments of Westville, Woodbury, Glassboro, Deptford and Gloucester Township with the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason M. Richardson of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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