

# NEWS

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

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 27, 2007

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## Pennsauken Man Pleads Guilty to Heroin Distribution Conspiracy

– Authorities Seized over 300 Grams of Fentanyl –

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(More)

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

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CAMDEN – A Pennsauken man pleaded guilty today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute heroin, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Jaime Castellar, 31, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Noel L. Hillman to a one-count Superseding Information that charges him with conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin. Judge Hillman continued the defendant's detention and scheduled sentencing for Aug. 17.

Castellar has been held without bail since his arrest on Sept. 28, 2006, by Special Agents of the FBI's Philadelphia Division and officers with the Philadelphia Police Department. At the time of his arrest, Castellar had been a fugitive since being charged by the Pennsauken Police Department on July 21, 2006.

At his plea hearing, Castellar admitted that in November 2005 he rented a house on Union Avenue in Pennsauken that was then used until July 2006 to package heroin in both bulk form and for street-level distribution. Castellar admitted that he kept various items in the house which were used to package heroin, including scales, grinders, and glassine baggies stamped with various logos. Castellar stated the glassine baggies stamped with logos – such as “slow motion,” “trap star,” “candy man,” “empire,” “500 degre3z,” “save a lot” and “mummy” – were used to bag heroin that was sold at various street corners in the Camden area.

Castellar admitted he packaged the heroin with at least six other individuals. Castellar admitted that over the life of the conspiracy, he distributed and possessed with intent to distribute more than 100 grams of heroin as part of this organization.

Furthermore, Castellar agreed that the substances recovered by law enforcement authorities from the house on July 21, 2006, included approximately 587 grams of heroin and 309 grams of fentanyl. According to the DEA, fentanyls are extensively used for anesthesia and analgesia, and have biological effects indistinguishable from those of heroin, with the exception that fentanyl may be hundreds of times more potent. The much higher potency levels may have lead to many fatal overdoses. Castellar admitted that those drugs were possessed with the intent to be distributed by members of the conspiracy.

The charge of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin carries a statutory mandatory minimum prison term of five years and a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison, and a fine of \$2 million.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Hillman 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.

Christie credited Police Officers with Pennsauken Police Department, under the direction of Chief John Coffey, along with Investigators from the member agencies of the Camden HIDTA, under the direction of Acting Camden County Prosecutor Joshua M. Ottenberg, and Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

Christie also thanked Special Agents of the FBI's Philadelphia Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge J.P. Weis, and Philadelphia Police Officers, under the direction of Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson, for their assistance in arresting the defendant.

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

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Defense Attorney: Craig R. Mitnick, Esq. Haddonfield