

NEWS

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Millville Man Sentenced to 211Months in Prison for Distribution of Crack Cocaine

(More)

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TRENTON – A Millville drug dealer was sentenced to 211 months in federal prison today for distribution of crack cocaine and illegally possessing a firearm in connection with his drug trafficking, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Freda L. Wolfson also ordered Robert McClain, 27, to serve five years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison sentence. McClain has been held without bail since his arrest on July 14, 2005.

On Sept. 29, 2006, a Trenton jury found McClain guilty of one count of possession with the intent to distribute over 50 grams of crack cocaine, as well as one count of possession of a semiautomatic handgun in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and one count of being a felon in possession of a semiautomatic handgun with an obliterated serial number.

On July 14, 2005, law enforcement officers from the DEA, the Cumberland County Narcotics Task Force, and the police departments of Millville and Bridgeton executed a search warrant at McClain's residence and upon his vehicle. As a result, authorities seized over 100 grams of crack cocaine and a Lorcin semi-automatic handgun with an obliterated serial number.

At sentencing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen Harberg, Jr., told the court that McClain's arrest and the search warrant resulted from an investigation that spanned 2004 and 2005, and included numerous purchases of crack cocaine from McClain by undercover officers working with confidential informants.

In determining the actual sentence, 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.

Christie credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer; member agencies of Cumberland County Narcotics Task Force, under the direction of Cumberland County Prosecutor Ronald J. Casella; the Bridgeton Police Department, under the direction of Chief Jeffrey Wentz; and Millville Police Department, under the direction of Chief Ronald J. Harvey, for investigation of the case.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Allen Harberg, Jr. and Jacqueline Carle, of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorneys: Jerome Ballarotto, Esq., Trenton, NJ