

For Immediate Release
April 22, 2011

**NORTH CAROLINA MAN RECEIVES 40-MONTH PRISON
SENTENCE FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN FIREARM**

ALBUQUERQUE – United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, on April 21, 2011 in federal court in Albuquerque, New Mexico, **George Thomas Colom, Jr.**, 20, was sentenced to 40-months in prison, with eight-days suspended, for his conviction for possessing a stolen firearm. Colom, a resident of Hubert, North Carolina resident, will serve a three-year term of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence.

Colom was one of 32 defendants indicted on federal and state firearms offenses in June 10, 2010 as part of Operation Jokerz Traderz, a long-term investigation designed to remove unlawfully possessed firearms from the streets of Albuquerque, and to target and prosecute felons in possession of such firearms. During the investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) operated an undercover store-front in Albuquerque, also aptly named “Jokerz Traderz.” ATF operated “Jokerz Traderz” as a thrift store at 1309 San Mateo Blvd. NE. Undercover agents purchased a variety of firearms from a substantial number of individuals, most of whom were later arrested as part of the operation. In total, 230 firearms were removed from the streets of Albuquerque never to be used again for any unlawful purpose.

Colom, identified by his alias “Dana Pickett,” and his co-defendant Asti Adams were charged in a five-count indictment filed in the case on June 10, 2010. The indictment charged Colom in all five counts: counts 1 and 2 charged possession of a stolen firearm; counts 3 and 4 charged possession of a stolen firearm with an obliterated, changed or altered serial number; and count 5 charged possession of an unregistered firearm. According to the indictment, Colom was prohibited from possessing firearms because he previously had been convicted of auto burglary

and receiving stolen property in the Second Judicial District Court for the State of New Mexico.

Colom was arrested on June 16, 2010, and has been in federal custody since that time. On January 26, 2011, Colom entered a guilty plea to an information charging him with possession of a stolen firearm under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office. At the conclusion of today's sentencing hearing, the indictment against Colom was dismissed.

Colom's co-defendant Asti Adams, 21, entered a guilty plea to count 2 of the indictment, charging him with possession of a stolen firearm on October 22, 2010 under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office. On March 30, 2011, Asti was sentenced to a 27-month term of imprisonment to be followed by a three-year term of supervised release.

Assistant United States Attorney Kimberly Brawley prosecuted the case, which was investigated by ATF.

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