

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## **CHICAGO MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR BANK ROBBERY**

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Michael Simmons, 29, of Chicago, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 75 months in prison for his role in robbing the US Bank on Cottage Grove Road in Madison on May 21, 2008. Simmons pleaded guilty to this charge on October 24, 2008.

On May 21, 2008, four masked men, some of them armed, entered the US Bank and robbed it. Simmons provided the get-away vehicle for these men and entered the bank before them. He was arrested a short distance from the bank immediately following the robbery.

Simmons testified as a government witness at the recently concluded trial of Corey Thomas and Prince Beck. The jury found them guilty of participating in this bank robbery and they will be sentenced in May. They each face a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The charges against Simmons were the result of an investigation conducted by

the Dane County Sheriff's Department, Madison Police Department, and Fitchburg Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Sinnott and Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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