



U.S. Department of Justice

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"BANGIN' IN THE ROCK" GANG LEADER FOUND GUILTY – FACES POSSIBLE LIFE SENTENCE

Little Rock - United States Attorney Bud Cummins, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent in Charge William C. Temple, and Little Rock Police Department (LRPD) Chief Stuart Thomas announced today that a jury in United States District Court returned guilty verdicts in the case of United States v. Bobby Banks (a.k.a. "Big C"). Banks was convicted for one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, five counts of distribution of crack cocaine, one count of using a telephone as part of a scheme to distribute crack cocaine and one count of threatening a witness who was a law enforcement officer.

It is anticipated by the government that Banks, 30, faces a life sentence under the applicable federal sentencing scheme. His actual sentence will be determined by the trial judge, United States District Court Judge George Howard, Jr., after the preparation by the Court of a presentence report, at a later date.

Banks is the 14th defendant to be convicted in this case. Thirteen other defendants previously pleaded guilty under cooperation agreements. One defendant remains a fugitive. One defendant was allowed to enter into an agreement for pre-trial diversion directly to probation status. Another defendant, Kenneth Williams (a.k.a. "Cable Man"), was murdered in December 2004 after the Grand Jury returned the indictment against Banks and the other fifteen defendants.

Banks was the recognized leader of the 23rd Street Crips (a.k.a. "Wolfe Street Crips"). He was alleged to be the operator several crack houses in the Little Rock area. He was featured in an early 1990's (circa 1993) HBO Production "Bangin' in the Rock." At one point during this prosecution, Banks violated the terms of the Court imposed conditions of home confinement and became a fugitive. He was later rounded up and arrested by METROCK agents and LRPD SWAT officers.

The investigation began in 2000. It was conducted by the METROCK Task Force, which is composed of agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and officers of the Little Rock Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jane Duke and Pat Harris.

"This is an important conviction for several reasons. Mr. Banks' criminal activities have plagued this community for years. He operated his drug business through a system of gang related threats, intimidation and violence. The citizens in the neighborhoods he haunted will not be sorry to see him or his co-conspirators go away. The dedicated agents, officers, and prosecutors who obtained these convictions should be commended for their work." stated Cummins.

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