



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CONTACT: Bud Cummins
United States Attorney
501-340-2650**

DRUG DEALERS FOUND GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT

Little Rock, AR- U.S. Attorney Bud Cummins, and Drug Enforcement Administration Assistant Special Agent in Charge William J. Bryant, announced today that Kenneth Kenita Nolen of Little Rock, and Conici Clark from Akron, Ohio were found guilty after a trial by jury of a drug conspiracy related to marijuana and crack cocaine. The case was tried before United States District Judge William R. Wilson, Jr.

The Jury found Kenneth Nolen guilty of one count of Conspiracy to Possess Cocaine base and Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute and one count of Possession of Cocaine base and Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute. Conici Clark was found guilty of one count of Conspiracy to Possess Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute and one count of Possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute.

"The law enforcement agencies that participated in this case are to be commended for their coordinated efforts in heading off this large scale interstate shipment," stated Cummins. "Our talented prosecutors and agents are sending a clear message that we do not want these large shipments of dope on Arkansas' highways."

According to the indictment and trial testimony of multiple government witnesses, Officers of the Akron, Ohio Police Department received an anonymous tip on January 31, 2006, related to Conici Clark traveling to Little Rock, Arkansas for the purpose of driving a large quantity of cocaine and marijuana to Ohio for distribution at the direction of Calvin Blair and Kenneth Nolen. More than one hundred fifty five (155) grams of marijuana and more than three hundred (300) grams of crack cocaine were later seized at a traffic stop on Interstate 40 in Pulaski County, Arkansas following overnight surveillance of the suspects by officers of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Little Rock Police Department and the Arkansas State Police.

Co-defendant Calvin Blair pled guilty on Monday, October 16, 2006, to one count of Aiding and Abetting the crime of Possession of crack cocaine with the Intent to Distribute, prior to providing testimony against Nolen and Clark.

Calvin Blair is scheduled to be sentenced February 9, 2007. No sentencing date has been set for Nolen and Clark.

The statutory penalty for Conspiracy to Possess and Possession of Cocaine Base with the Intent to Distribute is not less than ten (10) years nor more than life and/or a fine of not more than four million dollars. The statutory penalty for Possession with the Intent to Distribute Marijuana is not more than twenty years and/or a fine of not more than one million dollars.

This prosecution is the result of the combined efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Little Rock Police Department, the Arkansas State Police and the Akron, Ohio Police Department. All contributed to this successful prosecution effort.

Assistant United States Attorney Edward O. Walker presented the case for the United States.

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