



## U.S. Department of Justice

### *United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS HANDED DOWN TODAY**

**Little Rock** – U.S. Attorney Tim Griffin announced that a federal grand jury sitting in the Eastern District of Arkansas returned numerous indictments today. Among the unsealed indictments made public are the following:

***United States v. Steven D. Mitchell.*** Steven Mitchell, age 32, of Pineville, Arkansas, was indicted on charges related to the interstate transportation of minors with the intent to engage in illegal sexual conduct. Mitchell, a former Melbourne school teacher, was charged in a twelve count indictment stemming from acts against some of his former students while on school related out-of-state trips. These crimes are punishable by not more than 15 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. The case was investigated by special agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in cooperation with the Arkansas State Police. Mitchell is scheduled to appear for plea and arraignment on April 26, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. before United States Magistrate Judge John F. Forster, Jr.

***United States v. Anthony Isaac Aviles, Robert James Abreu, and John Henry Willhite, III.*** Aviles, age 30, and Abreu, age 26, both of Pembroke Pines, Florida, together with Willhite, age 36, of Alvin, Texas, were indicted for conspiring to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana and possession with intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana.

On March 15, 2007, the three were arrested after the ambulance in which they were transporting marijuana broke down in Maumelle, Arkansas. If convicted, the defendants will face not less than 5 years and not more than 40 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$2,000,000. The charges were investigated by special agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration in cooperation with the Maumelle Police Department. Aviles, Abreu and Willhite are also scheduled to appear for plea and arraignment on April 26, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. before United States Magistrate Judge John F. Forster, Jr.

An indictment contains only allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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