



U.S. Department of Justice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CALIFORNIA MAN IS INDICTED FOR MONEY LAUNDERING
AFTER WEST MEMPHIS TRAFFIC STOP**

Little Rock - Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and William J. Bryant, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Little Rock District Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), announced today that Ricardo Bermudez, age 33, of South Gate, California, was indicted today by a federal grand jury on one count of money laundering.

The charges stem from a March 18, 2010 traffic stop initiated by the West Memphis, Arkansas Police Department. Bermudez was stopped for traveling too close to another vehicle. Bermudez consented to a search of his vehicle and during that stop law enforcement agents discovered approximately \$1.8 million in U.S. Currency secreted in the passenger compartment of a tractor trailer driven by Bermudez.

Money laundering carries a possible punishment of up to 20 years in federal prison, and up to a \$500,000 fine or twice the value of the property involved in the offense.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the West Memphis Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Julie Peters.

An indictment contains only allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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