

Department of Justice

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DEA SPECIAL AGENT INDICTED FOR EMBEZZLING SEIZED DRUG MONEY

Atlanta, GA - GREGORY CAMPION, 44, of Orlando, Florida, a DEA Special Agent formerly based in Atlanta, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of embezzling money as a federal officer, embezzling public money, and money laundering. He is expected to be arraigned before United States Magistrate Judge Alan J. Baverman on Wednesday.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "We have no tolerance for criminal conduct by law enforcement officers sworn to uphold the law, particularly federal agents. We will thoroughly investigate and vigorously prosecute alleged lawbreaking by law enforcers."

Sherri Strange, DEA Special Agent In Charge in Atlanta, said, "The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) holds our workforce to the highest ethical standards and regards the ethical performance of duty as our first priority. DEA takes very seriously any allegations of misconduct, abuse of position, or criminal action. DEA will continue to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice and uphold the integrity and reputation of our outstanding workforce."

A federal grand jury returned an indictment against CAMPION on March 1, 2006. The indictment charges that on seven occasions in 2004 and 2005, CAMPION, a Special Agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration assigned to the Atlanta Airport Task Force, allegedly stole cash from the secure storage vault maintained by the Task Force. These funds had been seized by law enforcement agents as currency involved in federal narcotics offenses and were subject to forfeiture to the United States.

The indictment also charges that CAMPION allegedly engaged in two transactions in excess of \$10,000 with the proceeds of these thefts, relating to the purchase of real estate in Orlando, Florida. The indictment seeks forfeiture of that real estate. CAMPION, who now lives in Florida, has been suspended without pay from his position at the DEA.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment only contains charges. The defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Office of Professional Responsibility, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General, and the Internal Revenue Service.

Assistant United States Attorneys Justin S. Anand and Phyllis B. Sumner are prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or F. Gentry Shelnutt, Chief, Criminal Division, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <u>www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan</u>.