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**CHICAGO MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 24 YEARS FOR DRUG  
DISTRIBUTION AND WEAPONS CHARGES**

CHICAGO A Chicago man was sentenced yesterday to more than 24 years in federal prison on various drug and weapons charges, federal law enforcement officials announced today. The defendant, **Calvin Buffington**, 44, the leader of a drug trafficking organization called the Buffington DTO, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber to 238 months on the drug charges and 60 months on the firearms charge, which must be served consecutive to the drug sentence, for a total of 298 months in prison. There is no parole and defendants must serve at least 85 percent of the sentence imposed.

Buffington pleaded guilty in October 2009 to multiple charges, including: conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine and heroin; distribution of cocaine; possession of cocaine and heroin with intent to distribute; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of the drug conspiracy. Buffington has been in federal custody since he was arrested in June 2007, when he was initially charged with conspiring with 13 co-defendants to possess and distribute cocaine. Buffington and 20 others were subsequently indicted on narcotics and firearms charges.

During yesterday's sentencing hearing, Judge Leinenweber found Buffington to have been the leader of the Buffington DTO. In that role, Buffington obtained wholesale quantities of cocaine and heroin in the Chicago area for resale in metropolitan Chicago and Detroit. Buffington protected the business of his organization by possessing firearms and directing others to do so. During the investigation of the Buffington DTO, law enforcement seized approximately \$1.6 million in cash, approximately 31 kilograms of cocaine, approximately 800 grams of heroin, and six firearms.

The sentence was announced by Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Jack Riley, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration. The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Terra Reynolds and Steve Dollear.

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