



# Department of Justice

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### WEEK IN REVIEW – HAMMOND

Hammond, Indiana- The United States Attorney's Office announced the following:

Ralph Oliver, 24, of Chicago, Illinois, pled guilty before Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to counts three and five of a superseding Indictment charging him with use of a firearm during a federal crime of violence and conspiracy to interfere with commerce by threats of violence. Sentencing has been set for 12/12/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jacqueline Jacobs /set and David Nozick.

Ronald Slusser, 47, of Crown Point, Indiana, pled guilty before Senior Judge James T. Moody to counts one through four of an Indictment charging him with conspiracy to provide false information to a federal firearms licensee, conspiracy to defraud the Food and Drug Administration, making false statements on a tax return, and laundering/structuring of monetary instruments. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Department of Defense Criminal Investigation Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the US Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Indiana State Police. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Philip Benson.

Joseph Kumstar, 40, of Crown Point, Indiana, pled guilty before Senior Judge James T. Moody to counts one, two, and five of an Indictment charging him with conspiracy to provide false information to a federal firearms licensee, conspiracy to defraud the Food and Drug Administration, and making false statements on a tax return. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Department of Defense Criminal Investigation Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the US Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Indiana State Police. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Philip Benson.

Lawrence Williams, 26, of Chicago, Illinois, pled guilty before Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to count five of a superseding Indictment charging him with conspiracy to interfere

with commerce by threats or violence. Sentencing has been set for 12/8/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Nozick.

Antonio Cantu, 36, of Crown Point, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Robert Miller, Jr. to 178 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of an Indictment charging him with the bank robbery by force or violence of the Chase Bank in Michigan City, Indiana. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Michigan City Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald Schmid.

Manuel Gonzalez, 44, pled guilty before Senior Judge James T. Moody to count one of an Indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute marijuana in the case *US v Marquez et al.* These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joshua Kolar.

Carl Taylor, 29, of Gary, Indiana, pled guilty before Judge Rudy Lozano to count one of an Indictment charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Sentencing has been set for 1/5/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives HIDTA Task Force and the Gary Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.

Obed Ornelas, 29, of Gary, Indiana, sentenced by Senior Judge James Moody to 60 months imprisonment and 4 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of an Indictment charging him with possession with the intent to distribute marijuana. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Task Force. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Change-Adiga.

Jairo Fernando-Valdez, 31, of Gary, Indiana, sentenced by Senior Judge James Moody to 24 months imprisonment and 4 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of an Indictment charging him with possession with the intent to distribute marijuana. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Task Force. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Change-Adiga.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.