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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN SOUTH BEND RETURNS INDICTMENTS

South Bend, IN—The United States Attorney's Office announced that a Grand Jury sitting in South Bend, Indiana, returned the following Indictments on January 11, 2012:

George Wedow, 32, of Michigan City, Indiana, was charged in a three count Indictment with one count of manufacture of marijuana, one count of buying, selling, delivering, or transporting animals for participation in animal fighting venture, and one count of felon in possession of firearms. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank E. Schaffer.

Brandon A. Birchmeier, 31, of Plymouth, Indiana, was charged in a three-count Indictment with one count being a felon in possession of a firearm; one count being a drug user in possession of a firearm; and one count possessing an unregistered firearm. These charges were filed as a result of an investigation by the Plymouth Police Department, Indiana State Police, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald J. Schmid

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.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that an Indictment is merely an allegation and that all persons charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.