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FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS OPELOUSAS MAN OF DISTRIBUTION OF COCAINE

Defendant Faces a Mandatory Minimum of 20 Years in Prison

Lafayette, La.: Don Paul Jackson, 41, of Opelousas, La., was convicted by a federal jury late yesterday afternoon of distribution of cocaine following a two-day trial and approximately three hours of jury deliberation, Acting United States Attorney William J. Flanagan announced.

Evidence at trial reflected that Jackson was a large-scale drug dealer in the Opelousas, La. area, and had been a longtime target of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Opelousas Police Department. In a combined effort of the DEA and the Opelousas Police Department, Jackson was arrested and ultimately convicted for distributing more than 50 grams of “crack” cocaine. Due to Jackson’s prior drug trafficking convictions, he is facing a mandatory minimum of 20 years in federal prison.

Jackson faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in prison, a fine up to \$8 million, or both, and a period of 10 years of supervised release upon his release from prison. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by agents of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the Opelousas Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney J. Collin Sims.

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