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OPELOUSAS MAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTION OF COCAINE

Defendant receives minimum mandatory sentence of 20 years

LAFAYETTE, La. – A major cocaine drug trafficker was sentenced yesterday to serve a minimum mandatory of 20 years in federal prison for distribution of cocaine, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced. Don Paul Jackson, 41, of Opelousas, La., was also sentenced to 10 years of supervised release by U. S. District Judge Richard T Haik, Sr.

Jackson was indicted on drug trafficking charges in July 2009. After a two-day trial on April 6, 2010, Jackson was found guilty for distribution of cocaine. Testimony revealed that the defendant was a large-scale drug dealer in the Opelousas, La. area. In a combined effort by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Opelousas Police Department, Jackson was arrested and ultimately convicted for distributing more than 50 grams of “crack” cocaine. Jackson was previously convicted for federal drug offenses in the Western District of Louisiana and has numerous arrests for violent crimes. Due to his prior drug trafficking convictions, he was sentenced to the minimum mandatory sentence of 20 years in prison.

United States Attorney Finley stated: “Mr. Jackson has made drug trafficking his career. Protecting the community against criminals who are committed to re-offending is a priority for this office. This sentence serves as a reminder to those who choose to traffic in illegal narcotics that you will be vigorously prosecuted and face the consequences of your actions.”

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

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