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United States Attorney  
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**LAFAYETTE MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT  
FOR DRUG CHARGES**

*Defendant receives 20 years in prison*

**Lafayette, La.:** United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today the sentencing of Emanuel Charles, III, 38, of Lafayette, La. Charles was sentenced late yesterday afternoon to 20 years in prison and 10 years of supervised release. The sentence, which was handed down by U.S. District Judge Rebecca F. Doherty, is a result of Charles' plea of guilty to possession with intent to distribute cocaine base (crack) and possession with intent to distribute cocaine. Due to the defendant having a prior drug conviction, he received an enhanced statutory penalty of 20 years.

Charles pleaded guilty in November of 2009 to possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of cocaine base (crack) and possession with intent to distribute cocaine. In documents filed with the court prior to today's sentencing, it was revealed that during a traffic stop of Charles' vehicle, officers discovered 185 grams of cocaine base (crack) and a bottle containing 270 milliliters of liquid codeine. Upon executing a search warrant at Charles' apartment, agents seized \$7,500.00 in cash, a box of Winchester 9mm ammunition, a plastic bag of marijuana and a plastic bag that contained 174 grams of powder cocaine. The agents also discovered items such as whisks, a microwave plate, a digital scale, canisters with hidden compartments and several large empty zip-lock bags, all containing cocaine residue.

U.S. Attorney Finley stated: "Drug trafficking causes great harm and negatively impacts our communities. We will continue to aggressively prosecute and seek tough sentences for trafficking cases."

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Lafayette Metro Narcotics unit. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney J. Collin Sims.

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