



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

## **News Release**

**B. Todd Jones,  
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney  
Director of Community Relations  
(612) 664-5611  
email: [jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov](mailto:jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov)**

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### **Armed career criminal indicted for possessing a firearm**

MINNEAPOLIS—Yesterday in federal court, a 22-year-old armed career criminal was indicted for possessing a nine-millimeter pistol. The indictment charges Corey James Benjamin, no known address, with one count of possession of a firearm by an armed career criminal.

The indictment alleges that on or about July 24, 2011, Benjamin possessed the gun while on the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. Because he is a felon, Benjamin is prohibited under federal law from possessing a firearm at any time. His prior Mille Lacs County convictions include third-degree burglary (2009), second-degree assault (2005), and fifth-degree felony assault (2008). Since all of these past felony convictions were for crimes of violence, sentencing in the current federal case is subject to the Armed Career Criminal Act, which mandates a minimum of 15 years in federal prison if convicted.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department and the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew R. Winter.

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*An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.*