

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor  
Camden, New Jersey 08101



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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Atlantic City Man Sentenced to 360 months in Federal  
Prison for Crack Cocaine Distribution Charges

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(More)

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CAMDEN – An Atlantic City man was sentenced to 360 months in federal prison today for his participation in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered Edwin Patillo, 44, to pay a \$2000 fine and to serve five years of supervised release upon the completion of her prison sentence.

On May 11, 2007, after one hour of deliberation, a jury convicted Patillo of all four counts contained in a Second Superseding Indictment, which was returned on Jan. 9, 2007. Patillo was convicted of one count each of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 grams or more of crack cocaine and distribution and possession with intent to distribute 5 grams or more of crack cocaine. Patillo was also convicted of two counts of distribution and possessing with intent to distribute a quantity of crack cocaine.

In convicting the defendant, the jury found that from July 2003 until January 2004 Patillo conspired with others to distribute crack cocaine in Atlantic County. The jury viewed evidence and heard testimony that on at least three occasions between July and September 2003, Patillo sold crack cocaine to co-conspirators and undercover law enforcement officers in Atlantic City.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Kugler credited testimony at trial which established that defendant conspired to distribute between 500 grams and 1.5 kilograms of “crack” cocaine in 2003. Further, Judge Kugler determined that defendant was a manager of a drug distribution organization, and that he attempted to obstruct justice by trying to convince a witness to lie on his behalf. Judge Kugler then consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the DEA Atlantic City Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, in Newark, and Police Officers with the Atlantic City Police Department, under the direction of Chief John J. Mooney, for investigation of the case.

The case was tried by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Allen Harberg, Jr., and Jacqueline Carle of the U.S. Attorney’s Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Harold B. Shapiro, Esq., Vineland