

# NEWS

---

United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
402 East State Street, Room 430  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

---

---



---

---

**Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney**

---

---

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

**News on the Internet:** News Releases, related documents and advisories are posted short-term at our website, along with links to our archived releases at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. **Go to:** <http://www.njusao.org/break.html>

---

---

Assistant U.S. Attorney  
PATRICK C. ASKIN  
609-989-2020

galv0220.rel  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Feb 20, 2009

---

---

## Cocaine Supplier Pleads Guilty to Distributing Kilogram Quantities of Cocaine in Trenton

---

---

(More)

---

---

Greg Reinert, PAO  
Public Affairs Office

856-757-5233  
973-645-2888

**Breaking News (NJ) <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>**

---

---

TRENTON – A cocaine wholesale supplier to drug dealers in the Trenton area pleaded guilty today to a drug conspiracy charge for possessing seven kilograms of cocaine and approximately \$24,290 in cash in a hidden compartment in a vehicle used to transport the cocaine from Texas to Trenton, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr., announced.

Luis Galvan, 35, a Mexican national living in Houston, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Joel A. Pisano, to a Superseding Indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute seven or more kilograms of cocaine. Judge Pisano scheduled sentencing for June 2.

Galvan and his co-defendant, Jose Leal, 32, a long time resident of Houston who currently lives Trenton, have been held in custody since their arrest by investigators with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office on Oct. 24, 2007.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick C. Askin told the court that Galvan and Leal had transported approximately eight kilograms of cocaine stashed in a large hidden compartment located in the rear passenger side of the silver Dodge Caravan minivan from Texas to the Trenton area.

At his plea hearing, Galvan admitted that he, Leal and others had agreed to distribute kilogram quantities of cocaine in the Trenton region. Galvan stated that on Oct. 24, 2007, he was a passenger while Leal was driving the minivan, which was registered in Texas, when law enforcement officers stopped the vehicle in Trenton. At the time of the vehicle stop, the vehicle contained approximately seven kilograms of cocaine and \$24,290 in cash stored in the hidden compartment, Galvan admitted.

Galvan admitted that the day before his arrest, Oct. 23, he and Leal delivered one kilogram of cocaine to a male who at the time resided on Howell Street in Trenton.

On Feb. 5, 2009, Leal pleaded guilty before Judge Pisano to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 or more kilograms of cocaine. Judge Pisano scheduled Leal's sentencing for May 20.

The charge of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a statutory maximum prison sentence of life, and a fine of up to \$4 million.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Pisano will consult 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.

Marra credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, and Investigators with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini, Jr., with the investigation leading to the guilty pleas.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick C. Askin, of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Trenton.

– end –

Defense Attorney: Anthony G. Simonetti, Esq. Highstown