

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 18, 2010

Hopewell Man Sentenced to 38 months for Committing Three
Southern N.J. Bank Robberies

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CAMDEN – A Hopewell, Cumberland County, man was sentenced to 38 months in federal prison today for his role in the planning and committing of three bank robberies in southern New Jersey, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered Dustin Corney, 32, to pay \$11,010 in restitution and to serve 3 years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

Corney pleaded guilty before Judge Kugler on Oct. 23, 2009, to one count of bank robbery, that charged him specifically for the April 18, 2009, robbery of a Sun National Bank branch in Vineland of approximately \$8,957. Corney, however, also admitted his role in two additional bank robberies. In sentencing the defendant, Judge Kugler took all of the conduct into consideration at sentencing.

At his plea hearing, Corney admitted that on April 18, 2009, he along with Howard Hiles, 34, of Carney's Point, and Hiles's girlfriend, Jenny Hedden, 30, of Carney's Point, planned to rob a bank. As part of their plan, Corney admitted that Hedden wrote a demand note that said something to the effect of "This is a robbery. Put all the money in the bag." Corney admitted that he and Hiles then left Hedden's residence in her car and drove to a Sun National Bank branch in Vineland. Corney admitted that he went into the bank, wearing a motorcycle helmet, and passed the demand note to a teller, who in return gave him money from the teller's draw, he admitted. The two men then returned to Hedden's residence and dumped out a pile of money onto a table, Corney admitted. Corney admitted that they all took some of the proceeds of the bank robbery and bought heroin.

In addition to the April 18 bank robbery, Corney admitted committing the following bank robberies:

- May 11, 2009, along with Corney robbed the TD Bank in Gloucester Township, of \$385;
- May 11, 2009, along with Hedden and Corney robbed the Ocean City Home Bank in Marmora, of \$1,668.

Hiles pleaded guilty before Judge Kugler on Aug. 14 to one count of bank robbery also specifically for the April 18, 2009, robbery of the Sun National Bank branch in Vineland. Hiles also admitted committing the aforementioned bank robberies along with the following two bank robberies;

- May 4, 2009, along with Hedden robbed the Harvest Community Bank in Pennsville, of approximately \$1,500;

- May 18, 2009, along with Hedden, robbed of the Newfield Bank in Hopewell Township, of \$1,685.

Hiles was sentenced on Nov. 24, 2009, to 64 months incarceration, \$12,527 in restitution and three years supervised release. Hedden pleaded before Judge Kugler to one count of bank robbery on Aug. 3 and is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 19, 2010. All three defendants were arrested at different locations on May 18.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Kugler 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.

Fishman credited Special Agents of the FBI's Atlantic City Resident Agency and South Jersey Resident Agency, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Kevin B. Cruise in Newark, and Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarcyk in Philadelphia, respectively. Fishman also thanked Trooper with the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Col. Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent, along with the Police Departments of Pennsville, Gloucester Township and Vineland, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason M. Richardson of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Frederick W. Klepp, Esq., Cherry Hill, New Jersey