



U.S. Department of Justice

Kenneth J. Gonzales

United States Attorney

District of New Mexico

201 3rd Street NW

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

CONTACT: *Elizabeth M. Martinez, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney, Public Affairs Officer*
elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov – 505-224-1469

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 21, 2010

60-YEAR OLD AZTEC MAN SENTENCED TO 6 YEARS IMPRISONMENT ON FEDERAL NARCOTICS AND FIREARMS CONVICTIONS

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, today, United States District Judge Judith C. Herrera sentenced **Steven L. Layne**, a 60-year old resident of Aztec, New Mexico, to a 72-month term of imprisonment to be followed by five-years supervised release based on narcotics trafficking and firearms convictions. Layne has been in custody since his arrest on April 1, 2009, when he was charged with possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute and being a felon in possession of firearms. Layne pled guilty to a two-count indictment on May 25, 2010 under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office.

Layne was federally charged after officers of the Region II Narcotics Task Force executed a search warrant at his residence on March 30, 2009, and seized more than 900 grams of methamphetamine, several firearms and \$5,000 in cash. In his plea agreement, Layne admitted involvement in the sale and purchase of methamphetamine, and said that he had obtained the methamphetamine found in his residence from a Mexican source.

Layne also acknowledged that, despite a prior conviction for narcotics trafficking, he owned the firearms found in his residence, making him a felon in possession of firearms.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jon K. Stanford and was investigated by the Region II Narcotics Task Force and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

#