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**INTERNATIONAL COLOMBIAN MONEY-LAUUNDERER SENTENCED TO
72 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, has announced that United States District Judge Kevin T. Duffy sentenced JUAN GUILLERMO OCAMPO Tuesday evening to 72 months imprisonment in connection with a multi-million dollar international narcotics money-laundering conspiracy. OCAMPO was originally charged with money laundering crimes in November 1994, but remained a fugitive from those charges in Colombia for ten years, until November 2004, when he was arrested upon entering the United States.

In April 2006, OCAMPO was convicted following a bench trial on stipulated facts before Judge Duffy. The evidence introduced at OCAMPO's trial, including Court-authorized wiretaps, demonstrated OCAMPO's involvement in an international money laundering organization that moved massive sums of drug money from the United States to Europe, and then into the hands of the owners of that money -- the drug traffickers based in Colombia. Throughout the early 1990s, members of OCAMPO's organization picked up large quantities of cash -- hundreds of thousands to more than a million dollars' worth of drug money at a time -- in locations around the country as well as in Canada and Puerto Rico. Couriers who had been sent to pick up the drug money would then deliver the cash to a location in the Bronx, New York. The cash would be deposited into a bank account in the name of a fictitious business and then transferred to accounts in Europe and elsewhere. The ultimate recipients of the funds were individuals in Colombia, with whom OCAMPO worked directly.

At yesterday's sentencing hearing, OCAMPO argued for leniency based on charitable works he had performed in Colombia in the field of music since 1995. While acknowledging that OCAMPO had done good works while in Colombia over the past ten years, the Court made clear that OCAMPO's record was "not perfect by a long shot." In imposing the 72-month sentence, Judge Duffy

took note that OCAMPO's money laundering crime represented his second criminal offense in the United States, referencing a prior cocaine-trafficking conviction from New York State. Judge Duffy also noted OCAMPO's history of lying about this past drug conviction.

The OCAMPO prosecution is being handled by the Office's International Narcotics Trafficking Unit. Assistant United States Attorney VIRGINIA CHAVEZ ROMANO is in charge of the prosecution.

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