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For Immediate Release

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LEADER OF COLES DRUG ORGANIZATION GETS LIFE SENTENCE

PHILADELPHIA - Alton Coles, 35, of Philadelphia, was sentenced today to life in prison plus 55 years in prison for running a cocaine operation in the Delaware Valley. Coles and co-defendants Timothy Baukman, James Morris, Monique Pullins, Asya Richardson and Thais Thompson, were indicted in February 2007 and convicted in March 2008. A federal jury convicted Coles of conspiracy to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine and 50 grams of cocaine base ("crack"). The indictment alleged Coles and his gang distributed approximately 1,200 kilograms of cocaine and 600 kilograms of cocaine base ("crack"), worth approximately \$25 million, from 1998 to 2005, in Philadelphia, Delaware County, New Jersey and elsewhere. Coles and Baukman were also convicted of operating a continuing criminal enterprise, possession of firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, and money laundering, offenses, among other charges. Coles was convicted on a total of 37 counts.

"The sentence imposed today requires Alton Coles to spend the rest of his life in prison," said Magid. "Coles' profits are gone and now so is his liberty. Our prosecution dismantled the Coles Organization and demonstrated that any profits from drug trafficking are temporary and illusory but the risks are real."

"This investigation involved a violent Drug organization that tried to sensationalize their violent, gangster life by producing a movie," said ATF Special Agent-in-Charge Mark W Potter. "To ATF drugs, guns, violence and illegal profits will result in a new starring role for Coles, in the Federal Penitentiary, for the rest of his life."

Robert Cooper, another defendant in the Coles Organization, was also sentenced today and received 27 years in prison. Cooper was convicted at trial, in the Fall of 2008, of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and distribution of cocaine base.

A total of 22 defendants were indicted with Coles. Keenan Brown and Jamar Campbell were convicted at the separate trial with Cooper. One co-defendant, Terry Walker, was acquitted. The remaining 12 co-defendants pleaded guilty. The remaining defendants convicted at trials are currently awaiting sentencing.

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The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Philadelphia/Camden High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division and the Philadelphia Police Department, assisted by the Salem County, New Jersey, Prosecutors Office, the Delaware County Criminal Investigation Division, the New Jersey State Police, Darby Boro Police Department, Chester Police Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Richard A. Lloret and Michael J. Bresnick.

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