



U.S. Department of Justice

**RONALD W. SHARPE**  
*United States Attorney*  
*District of the Virgin Islands*

*Ron de Lugo Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse*  
*5500 Veterans Drive, Suite 260*  
*Charlotte Amalie*  
*St. Thomas, VI 00802-6424*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

#### **Former TSA Employee Sentenced to 36 Months in Prison**

**St. Thomas, USVI** - Former Transportation Security Administration employee Ikim Blackett was sentenced today by District Court Chief Judge Curtis V. Gomez to 36 months in prison for offering to bribe a juror, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced.

Blackett was convicted after a one-day federal jury trial in July 2010 of bribery of a public official. The jury found that Blackett sought out and offered to pay a juror \$1,500 in exchange for the juror voting not guilty in an international drug conspiracy case involving the smuggling of hundreds of kilograms of cocaine from Venezuela through the British Virgin Islands.

The case was prosecuted by the Public Corruption Task Force, which comprises the Virgin Islands Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshals Service, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division and U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Nolan D. Paige and Kim R. Lindquist.

U.S. Attorney Sharpe urges anyone who has information related to public corruption to contact the Public Corruption Task Force at (340) 715-6516.