



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seven St. Croix Men Sentenced for Money Laundering and Drug Trafficking

St. Croix, USVI – Seven defendants were sentenced in federal court this week on money laundering and drug trafficking convictions by visiting U.S. District Court Judge Anne E. Thompson, announced United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe, Jose A. Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, and Pedro Janer, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration Caribbean Division.

Lionel Fawkes, 34, was sentenced to 200 months in prison, to be followed by four years of supervised release. Christopher Alfred, 37, was sentenced to 32 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Shango Allick, 29, was sentenced to 30 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. David Clouden, 37, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Marcelino Garcia, 33, was sentenced to 24 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Jamaal Maragh, 29, was sentenced to 29 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Jamal Young, 30, was sentenced to 20 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

On March 29, 2011, a federal jury found all defendants guilty of numerous counts of money

laundering after a six-day trial in district court on St. Croix. Additionally, the jury convicted all defendants, except Maragh, of conspiracy to commit money laundering, and Fawkes only, of conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

With respect to the money laundering charges, evidence presented at trial established that from December 2001 until May 2005, the defendants conspired to conduct financial transactions affecting interstate commerce using the proceeds of illegal drug trafficking, with the intent to promote drug trafficking, and knowing that the transactions were designed to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership and control of the drug trafficking proceeds. The evidence also showed that Fawkes and others conspired to possess with intent to distribute narcotics, specifically five or more kilograms of cocaine, 50 or more grams cocaine base, which is commonly referred to as "crack," and less than 50 kilograms of marijuana.

The evidence at trial disclosed a drug trafficking organization operating in Fairbanks, Alaska, that was supplied with narcotics from the U.S. Virgin Islands. Cocaine and crack cocaine were sent, usually via Express Mail parcels, from St. Croix to Fairbanks. Members of the organization in Alaska then distributed the narcotics in Alaska for significant financial profit. Some of the illegal drug proceeds were then sent back to St. Croix, via Western Union wire transfers and money orders. Defendants and others were recruited by Fawkes to receive the transfers in St. Croix. The government uncovered documentation showing that at least 167 wire transfers and money orders were sent between St. Croix and Fairbanks, totaling approximately \$307,849.00.

U.S. Attorney Sharpe commended the joint efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, and the Fairbanks Alaska Police Department, which investigated this case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney

Alphonso Andrews.