



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*

---

## PRESS RELEASE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

### **Two Convicted of Armed Robbery of Merchants Commercial Bank on St. John**

**St. Thomas, USVI** - After a three-day trial in district court, a federal jury on St. Thomas today convicted Sevaune E. Browne, 25 and Kadeem Thomas, 22, both of St. John, of conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce by robbery and aiding and abetting armed bank robbery, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe and Virgin Islands Police Commissioner Henry W. White, Jr. announced.

Thomas also was convicted of using and carrying a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence. Browne and Thomas face a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the conspiracy and bank robbery convictions. Thomas also faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison for the firearm conviction.

Evidence presented at trial established that on January 11, 2011, Thomas and Keven Fessale, 22, entered the Merchants Commercial Bank on St. John armed with firearms and proceeded to rob the bank of approximately \$47,528.00. Fessale and Thomas fled in a car owned by Browne. According to the evidence presented at trial, Browne was the mastermind of the robbery, and provided the firearms used in the robbery.

Fessale pled guilty on March 8, 2012 to bank robbery. He also faces a maximum penalty

of 25 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing for Browne and Thomas is scheduled for June 28, 2012. Sentencing for Fessale is scheduled for June 14, 2012.

U.S. Attorney Sharpe commended the efforts of the Virgin Islands Police Department, which investigated the case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Nelson L. Jones and Ishmael Meyers, Jr.