



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 5, 2010

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CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS FOR ROLE IN MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jedidiah Bunch, 36, Fallbrook, Calif., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to five years in prison for his role in a conspiracy to distribute over 100 kilograms of marijuana from California to Wisconsin throughout 2008. Bunch pleaded guilty to this charge on July 23, 2010.

Bunch was arrested in November 2008 at his home in California following an investigation identifying him as the source of marijuana in La Crosse, Wis. Bunch admitted his involvement with other individuals in California in providing marijuana to Ryan Rochester in Wisconsin.

In sentencing Bunch, Judge Crabb noted that he lived a care-free lifestyle for years using the money he made selling marijuana. Judge Crabb suggested that in the future Bunch should use his entrepreneurial skills for legal employment.

Rochester was sentenced in May 2009 to 96 months in prison for his role in the conspiracy. Jason Johnson was also charged in the conspiracy and was sentenced to five years in prison in September 2010 for his role as a driver in the conspiracy, transporting money and marijuana between California and Wisconsin on behalf of Rochester. Robert Haslam, of California, also charged in the conspiracy, was arrested in Arizona in July 2010. Haslam's trial is set for January 3, 2011, in Madison.

The charges against Bunch were the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration; Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation; La Crosse Police Department; Monroe County Sheriff's Department; Vernon County Sheriff's Department; Wisconsin State Patrol; and various law enforcement agencies in southern California. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

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