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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Leader of Drug Trafficking Organization on the Run**

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA -- DAVID L. KIDD, II, age 43, of Martins Ferry, Ohio, has absconded from his court-ordered home confinement and is now the subject of a nationwide manhunt. KIDD is the alleged leader of a large drug trafficking organization that is responsible for bringing hundreds of thousands of pills from Florida and South Carolina into the Ohio Valley for illegal redistribution.

United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II, announced that on Friday, October 7, 2011, a federal probation officer discovered that KIDD was not at his home in Martins Ferry as required by pre-trial conditions that had previously been set by the United States District Court. Further investigation revealed that KIDD had taken flight and then contact was immediately made with the United States Marshals Service and the Ohio Valley Drug Task to begin the search. Federal Magistrate Judge James Seibert issued a warrant for KIDD's arrest late last evening, and KIDD's name was entered into a national fugitive database so that other jurisdictions will know that he is wanted.

KIDD is considered dangerous and was last known to be driving a 1996 Ford Explorer, black in color, with Ohio license plates. KIDD is 5'9" tall, approximately 220 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. Anyone with information about KIDD's whereabouts should call law enforcement officials at 304-218-9286 or 304-234-6092.

KIDD, who was indicted earlier this year, is scheduled to go to trial in early January on charges alleging that he conspired to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute oxycodone from February 2010 to March 26, 2011, in Ohio and Marshall Counties. He is also charged with conspiring to engage in interstate travel in aid of a racketeering enterprise, money laundering, and using a telephone to aid in the distribution of drugs. KIDD potentially faces a life sentence if he is convicted on all charges.

It should be noted that the charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations and not evidence of guilt, and that KIDD is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.