



Monthly

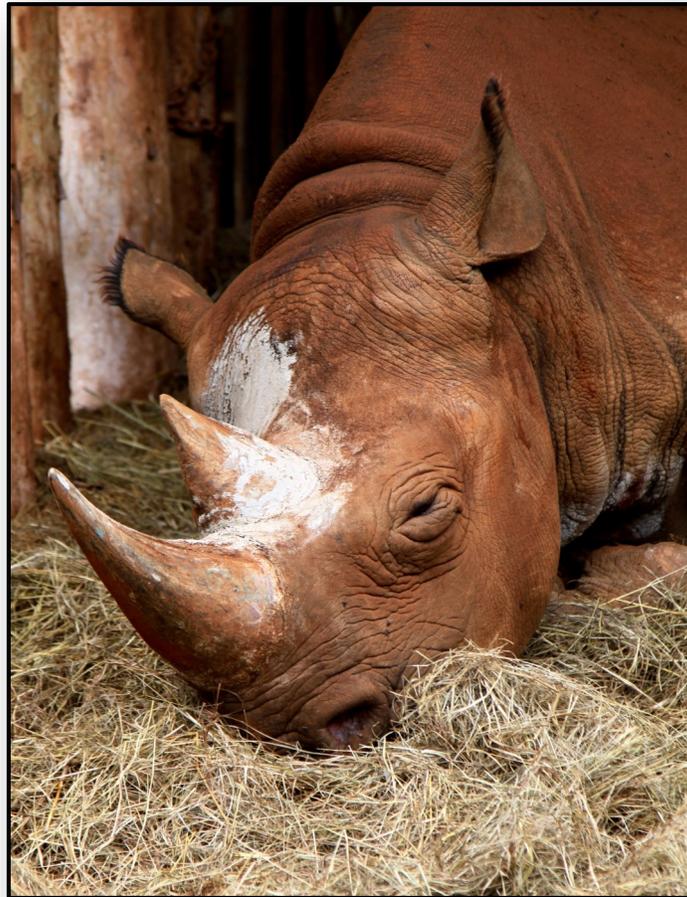
# Bulletin

## Environmental Crimes Section

October 2015

### Inside this Issue:

<a href="#">Indictments</a>	3–5
<a href="#">Guilty Pleas</a>	6–8
<a href="#">Sentencings</a>	9–15
<a href="#">Contacts</a>	16
<a href="#">Announcements</a>	17–18



*Black Rhino*

Send your federal case updates to:

[REDACTED]

U.S. Department of Justice  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Division  
Environmental Crimes Section  
PO Box 7611  
Washington, D.C., 20044  
202-305-0321

*“This extradition is a significant step forward in our international efforts to address wildlife trafficking and demonstrates that our international partners are also committed to ending this illegal trade in endangered species,”* said Assistant Attorney General Cruden. *“Rhino horn trafficking is having a devastating effect on the rhino and the allegations facing this individual are just the type of illegal behavior that is fueling an international market for horns. We must stop it in its tracks.”* From [Sheridan](#) extradition press release.

District/Circuit	Case Name	Case Type/Statutes
Southern District of Alabama	<a href="#">United States v. Daniel Paul Dancu</a>	Vessel/Conspiracy, APPS
District of Alaska	<a href="#">United States v. Clark W. Dixon</a> <a href="#">United States v. James Staeheli</a>	Big Game Hunts/Lacey Act Mining Operation/CWA
Central District of California	<a href="#">United States v. John K. Shea</a>	Seed Sales/ESA
Eastern District of California	<a href="#">United States v. Juan Penaloza-Ramirez</a>	Marijuana Grow /Drug Charges, Depredation of Public Land
Southern District of California	<a href="#">United States v. Michael J. Conrad</a>	Debarment/False Statement
██████████	██████████	██████████
██████████	██████████	██████████
District of Idaho	<a href="#">United States v. Adrian Q. Brown-Sonder</a>	Eagle Part Sales/BEGPA
Eastern District of Louisiana	<a href="#">United States v. Garcia Shrimp Company, LLC</a>	Shrimp Mislabeling/Lacey Act
Eastern District of Missouri	<a href="#">United States v. Daniel T. Wright</a>	Asbestos Abatement/CAA
Western District of Missouri	<a href="#">United States v. Felix Baravik</a>	Paddlefish Caviar/Lacey Act, Conspiracy
Southern District of Ohio	<a href="#">United States v. Benjamin N. Chason</a>	White-tailed Deer Breeding/ Conspiracy, Lacey Act, Wire Fraud
District of South Carolina	<a href="#">United States v. Albert Dickson</a>	Asbestos Removal/CWA
Western District of Texas	<a href="#">United States v. Patrick Sheridan</a> <a href="#">United States v. Tomas Perez</a>	Rhino Horn Sales/Lacey Act Migratory Bird Sales/MBTA

## Indictments/Informations

***United States v. Juan Penaloza-Ramirez, aka Juan Penaloza-Herrera, aka Juan Penaloza, No. 15-CR-00264 (E.D. Calif.), AUSA Karen Escobar.***

On September 24, 2015, a seven-count indictment was returned against Mexican national Juan Penaloza-Ramirez, aka Juan Penaloza-Herrera, aka Juan Penaloza and Russell Lee Riggs variously charging them with depredation to public lands and drug violations. Both also were charged with firearms violations (21 U.S.C. §§ 841, 846; 18 U.S.C. §§ 922, 1361; 26 U.S.C. § 5841).

The defendants are alleged to have been involved in a large-scale marijuana cultivation operation in the Sequoia National



*Trash found at illegal marijuana grow site*

Forest Fay Creek area supplying material, equipment, and personnel to sustain more than 3,000 marijuana plants. It is further alleged that the operation caused extensive damage to the land and natural resources. Fay Creek sustains a variety of ecosystems and resources, including riparian habitat supporting trout, wildflowers, and willow, alder and cottonwood trees. The creek also serves as the primary drinking water source for much of the wildlife in the area. Springs were dammed and diverted to irrigate the marijuana plants and large amounts of trash were scattered throughout, including in a flowing stream.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Forest Service; the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Land Management; the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Southern Tri-County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force; the California Department of Justice's Campaign against Marijuana Planting, and the Kern County Sheriff's Office.

## Indictments/Informations

### ***United States v. Patrick Sheridan, No. 14-CR-00108 (W.D. Tex.), ECS Trial Attorney Gary Donner and AUSA Greg Gloff.***

On September 18, 2015, Irish national Patrick Sheridan, arrested earlier this year in the United Kingdom, was extradited to Texas for his role in trafficking black rhinoceros horns.

Sheridan and co-defendant Michael Slattery, Jr., were charged in May 2014 with conspiracy and substantive violations of the Lacey Act for wildlife trafficking and making a false wildlife document (16 U.S.C. §§ 1538(a)(1)(E), 1540(b)(1), 1540(e)(4), 3372(a)(1), 3373(d)(1)(B); 18 U.S.C. § 371).

According to the indictment, in 2010, the defendants used a “straw buyer” to purchase two black rhinoceros horns from a taxidermist in Texas. The horns were subsequently sold in New York. Slattery has been sentenced to 14 months’ in prison for his role in the conspiracy. Sheridan is further charged with making a fictitious and fraudulent bill of sale in connection with the rhinoceros horns.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### ***United States v. Clark W. Dixon, No. 4:15-CR-00023 (D. Alaska), AUSA Steven Skrocki.***

On September 14, 2015, a cable TV hunting show host and nine other individuals were indicted for their participation in a multi-year poaching operation on the Noatak National Preserve (Preserve). According to the charging documents, dozens of big game animals, including grizzly bear, moose, caribou and Dall sheep were illegally hunted and killed with some of the illegal kills ending up on the cable hunting show “The Syndicate.” Two production companies and another individual charged with filming and airing footage without a permit were cited by the National Park Service in connection with this investigation.



*Defendants with bull moose*

Defendants charged are: Clark W. Dixon, Charles W. Dixon, Randolph Goza, Terry Goza, Clarence M. Osborne, Shannon D. Hooks, Lance D. Walker, and Fulton J. Wold. Clark Dixon, a featured host on the show and a Mississippi resident, was charged with two felony Lacey Act violations for his role in the illegal take of big game (16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(a)(2)(A), 3373(d)(1)(B)). In 2010, Clark Dixon and Osborne illegally took a grizzly bear for a fee without Clark Dixon possessing a license as a registered Alaska big game guide. Clark Dixon is further charged with conducting an illegal outfitting operation on the Noatak National Preserve over the last six years. Pilots Randolph Goza and Charles Dixon are

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **Indictments/Informations**

*(Continued from page 4)*

accused of assisting Clark Dixon in the operation.

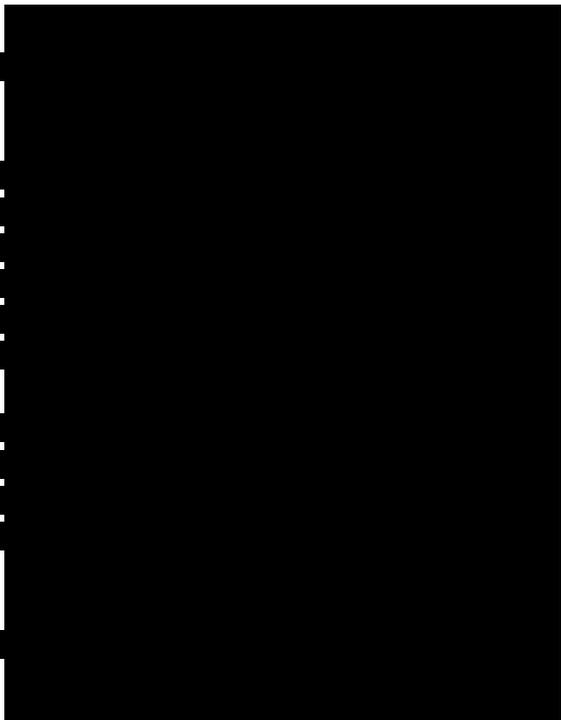
Clark Dixon's father, Charles Dixon, is charged with two Lacey Act violations for his assistance in the illegal outfitting and hunting operation. His STOLQuest SQ-4 aircraft was allegedly used to transport unlawfully taken game. Randall Goza, Terry Goza, Osborne, Hooks, Walker, and Wold are charged with Lacey Act violations for the illegal take of various Alaska big game species. Robert Viner was issued a federal citation in Mississippi for the illegal transport of an unlawfully taken brown bear.

The Outdoor Syndicate, LLC; its owner, Michael P. Dianda; and an editing studio, Zap Lab, Ltd., all were issued federal citations for taking footage of the hunts and using it on the show without obtaining a permit to commercially film on the Preserve.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.

# Guilty Pleas

[REDACTED]



***United States v. Daniel Paul Dancu*, No. 2:15-CR-00102 (S.D. Ala.), ECS Trial Attorney Shane Waller, AUSA Mike Anderson, and ECS Paralegal Jessica Pannett.**

On September 21, 2015, Daniel Paul Dancu pleaded guilty to a conspiracy violation (18 U.S.C. § 371) for his role in the illegal dumping of bilge waste. Dancu worked as a chief engineer onboard the oil tanker *M/T Stavanger Blossom* between November 2007 and November 2014.

In January 2010, Dancu was informed by an outgoing chief engineer that the oil water separator did not function properly. Rather than offloading the waste shoreside, Dancu and other crewmembers began bypassing the oily water separator (OWS), discharging it overboard for several months in 2014. Crew members also tricked the OWS oil content meter with fresh water to allow the overboard discharge of untreated oily wastes. These discharges were not recorded in the ship's oil record book.

Trial is scheduled to begin on October 26, 2015, against shipping company Det Stavangerske Dampskibsselskab AS (DSD Shipping) and three engineers.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service and the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division.

## Guilty Pleas

### ***United States v. Daniel T. Wright*, No. 4:15-CR-00145 (E.D. Mo.), AUSA Dianna Collins.**

On September 4, 2015, Daniel T. Wright pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Air Act for illegally removing asbestos from a former school building (42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(1)).

In August 2013, Wright was contracted to remove and properly dispose of asbestos from the former school building for \$104,000. Wright solicited and received a verbal bid for asbestos abatement and disposal from GEHM Environmental for \$86,000. Wright ultimately decided, however, to employ workers to complete the abatement who were not licensed or trained to work with asbestos. The crew was comprised mostly of local people, including high school students.

Wright obtained a demolition permit and package in September 2013, which put him on notice of the state and federal regulations with which he had to comply. Shortly after beginning the demolition, however, citizen complaints forced the police to shut down the project. Wright had failed to submit an asbestos notification to local officials. The demolition project illegally used the untrained workers to dispose of asbestos-containing material in large boxes that remained on the property and in rented dumpsters that sat behind the school. Sentencing is scheduled for December 10, 2015.

This case was investigated by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the Owensville Police Department.

### ***United States v. James Staeheli*, No. 14-CR-00103 (D. Alaska), ECS Senior Trial Attorney Chris Costantini, FAUSA Kevin Feldis, SAUSA Karla Perrin, and ECS Paralegal Casey Layman, with assistance from ECS Trial Attorney Cassandra Barnum.**

On September 2, 2015, James Staeheli pleaded guilty to a negligent Clean Water Act violation (33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(c)(1)(A), 1342(a)), for his involvement in the operation of the Platinum Creek Mine on the Salmon River in Southwestern Alaska. Staeheli is scheduled to be sentenced on November 12, 2015.



*Turbid ponds near Salmon River*

The Platinum Creek Mine, operated by XS Platinum (XSP) was situated along the Salmon River, which is important for spawning all five species of Pacific salmon (chinook, chum, coho, pink, and sockeye) and the rearing of coho and sockeye salmon. After flowing through federal Bureau of Land Management land, the Salmon River crossed the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge before entering the Pacific Ocean at Kuskokwim Bay.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Guilty Pleas

*(Continued from page 7)*

During 2010 and 2011, Staeheli and others systematically discharged large amounts of heavily polluted mine wastewater into the Salmon River. Turbid water was observed for miles below the mine, extending all the way to the ocean. In addition, false statements were made indicating that there were no discharges and the wastewater was being recycled. General Manager Robert Pate previously pleaded guilty to a CWA violation and Chief Operating Officer James Slade was recently convicted by a jury of CWA violations.

Australian citizens and fugitives Bruce Butcher and Mark Balfour remain charged with conspiracy to violate the CWA and false statements.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Interior BLM Office of Law Enforcement and Security and the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division.

## Sentencings

***United States v. Felix Baravik***, No. 13-CR-04016 (W.D. Mo.), ECS Senior Trial Attorney Jim Nelson, AUSA Lawrence Miller, and ECS Paralegal Casey Layman.

On September 28, 2015, Felix Baravik was sentenced to pay a \$5,000 fine and will complete a three-year term of probation, with a special condition of three months' home confinement. Baravik will perform 500 hours of community service and is barred from any fishing-related activity during probation. Baravik previously pleaded guilty to a Lacey Act trafficking violation for his role in a scheme to illegally buy and sell paddlefish.



*American Paddlefish photo courtesy of Missouri Department of Conservation.*

This case resulted from an undercover investigation known as “Operation Roadhouse,” centered on an area known as the Roadhouse in Warsaw, Missouri. As part of the operation, state and federal officers set up a paddlefish snagging business during the 2011 and 2012 paddlefish seasons. Petr Babkenko was convicted by a jury in August 2015 on conspiracy and Lacey Act charges, and Fedor Pakhnyuk, Arkadiy Lvovskiy, Dmitri Elitchev, and Artour Magdessian have previously pleaded guilty to Lacey Act violations (18 U.S.C. § 371; 16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(a)(2)(A) and 3373(d)(1)(B)). Andrew A. Praskovsky remains scheduled for trial to begin on October 26, 2015.

The American paddlefish, also called the Mississippi paddlefish or the “spoonbill,” is a freshwater fish that is primarily found in the Mississippi River drainage system. Paddlefish eggs are marketed as caviar. The retail value of the caviar is estimated to be between \$30,000 and \$50,000. Paddlefish were once common in waters throughout the Midwest. However, the global decline in other caviar sources, such as sturgeon, has led to an increased demand for paddlefish caviar. This increased demand is causing the over-fishing of paddlefish and the consequent decline of the paddlefish population.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation, with assistance from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

# Sentencings

**United States v. Garcia Shrimp Company, LLC, No. 15-CR-00080 (E.D. La.), ECS Trial Attorney Christopher Hale and AUSA Spiro Latsis.**

On September 24, 2015, Garcia Shrimp Company, LLC, was sentenced after previously pleading guilty to a Lacey Act false labelling violation (16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(d)(2), 3373(d)(3)(A)). Garcia Shrimp will pay a criminal fine of \$150,000. The company also agreed to be placed on probation for three years and be subject to increased labeling, recordkeeping, and auditing requirements. 35,000 pounds of shrimp was previously seized and sold in a forfeiture auction for \$120,800.



*Frozen Mexican shrimp purchased by defendant company*

In early October 2012, Garcia Shrimp purchased 35,000 pounds of Mexican shrimp from Mexican businessmen. The shrimp was packaged in plastic crates typically used by Mexican supermarket wholesalers. After taking receipt of the shrimp, company personnel removed “Product of Mexico” labels from the packages containing the shrimp and attached new tags indicating that the shrimp had been caught in U.S. waters. Company personnel also conducted an offloading ruse, whereby the shrimp was trucked down to Garcia Shrimp’s dock facility and then re-weighed and wrapped to make it appear as if the shrimp was caught by a local U.S. - flagged fishing vessel. Company personnel fabricated documents and bills of lading that falsely read, “Product of U.S.A., Wild Caught Gulf Shrimp.” On or about October 12, 2012, Garcia Shrimp sold the shrimp to a New Orleans based seafood distributor.

This case was investigated by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, with assistance from the Federal Interagency Seafood Fraud Task Force.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Sentencings

(Continued from page 10)

[REDACTED]

**United States v. Michael J. Conrad, No. 3:15-CR-01685 (S.D. Calif.), AUSA Melanie Pierson.**

On September 23, 2015, chemist Michael Conrad was sentenced to serve a five-year term of probation, to include six-month's home detention. Conrad also will pay a \$23,436 fine and perform 100 hours of community service.

The defendant previously pleaded guilty to a false statement violation for submitting false documents to the EPA to obscure his involvement in a prior federal case to avoid becoming ineligible for federal contracts (18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(3)). Between April 14, 2013, and April 10, 2015, Conrad made eight written submissions to the EPA Suspension and Debarment Office to make it appear that he was not involved in the actions that gave rise to the previous criminal case.

In 2012, Conrad had signed a plea agreement on behalf of Asgard Associates, LLC, which pleaded guilty to illegally storing hazardous wastes, as well as an agreement to personally guarantee the payment of restitution in the event of default by the corporation. Conrad's brother signed the corporate resolution authorizing the plea, on behalf of the Asgard Board of Directors. Conrad later claimed to the debarment officials that his brother had died years earlier and that Conrad was no relation to the person who had signed the resolution, and further claimed his only relationship with Asgard was to appear as a representative for one day for the entry of the plea.

Asgard was sentenced to a three-year term of probation and was ordered to pay \$175,412 in restitution for the costs incurred during the removal of the chemicals from the facility. As a result of the company's conviction, the EPA issued a suspension notice to Conrad in February 2013, and initiated debarment proceedings. In the course of the debarment proceedings, Conrad made numerous false statements and created false documents in an effort to avoid debarment, which he acknowledged when pleading guilty in 2015.

This case was investigated by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division, the EPA Office of Inspector General, and the FBI.

# Sentencings

***United States v. Tomas Perez*, Nos. 5:14-CR-00828, 829, 00830 (W.D. Tex.), AUSA Bud Paulissen.**

On September 21, 2015, Tomas Perez was sentenced after previously pleading guilty to violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 703(a), 707(b)(2)). Perez and three other defendants have been sentenced for unlawfully selling to undercover agents migratory birds including a Red-tailed Hawk and Great Horned Owls.

Perez will complete a three-year term of probation and pay \$2,000 in restitution to Last Chance Forever (LCF), a non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned raptors. On September 11, 2015, Juan Luis Guerra and Jorge Rocha were sentenced to serve one-year terms of probation and will pay \$2,000 and \$1,000 in restitution, respectively, to LCF. Francisco Guerro will complete a two-year term of probation and pay \$2,000 in restitution.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



*Great Horned Owl*

# Sentencings

## CASE REDACTED

*United States v. John K. Shea*, No. 2:13-CR-00406 (C.D. Calif.), AUSA Dennis Mitchell.

On September 16, 2015, John K. Shea was sentenced to time served, followed by one year of supervised release. He also will pay a \$100,000 fine into the Lacey Act Reward Fund. Shea previously pleaded guilty to an Endangered Species Act violation (16 U.S.C. §§ 1538(c),(g); 1540(b)) for attempting to smuggle Brazilian rosewood seeds valued at approximately \$10,000 from the United States to Fiji.

In May 2013, Shea attempted to board a flight from Los Angeles International Airport bound for Fiji. Customs officials found he had concealed 1,800 Brazilian rosewood seeds in his carry-on and check-in luggage. Brazilian rosewood trees (and their seeds) are listed in CITES Appendix I.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with assistance from Customs and Border Protection.



*Brazilian rosewood seeds*

## Sentencings

***United States v. Benjamin N. Chason*, No. 2:14-CR-00088 (S.D. Ohio), SAUSA Heather Robinson and AUSAs Mike Marous and Peter Glenn-Applegate.**

On September 15, 2015, Benjamin N. Chason was sentenced after pleading guilty of conspiracy and violating the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(a)(1), (a)(2)(A), 3373(d)(2); 18 U.S.C. § 371) for his involvement in an illegal deer trafficking operation. Chason was ordered to pay a \$300,000 fine and restitution as follows: \$600,000 to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Habitat Fund and \$200,000 to the Federal Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Fund. A community service payment of \$400,000 will go to the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks; and \$100,000 community service payment will be made to the Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife Turn in a Poacher program. He also will complete a three-year term of probation, to include four months' home confinement. Chason also will publish a statement in *North American Whitetail Magazine* acknowledging the criminal conduct, perform 150 hours of community service in an Ohio or Georgia state park, and is banned from hunting for one year.

Chason and co-conspirator Donald W. Wainwright, Sr., trafficked in live white-tailed deer. Wainwright, Sr., owned hunting preserves in Logan County, Ohio, and Live Oak, Florida, both of which were named Valley View Whitetails. Donald Wainwright, Jr., was a part-time resident and part-time operator of the Ohio site. Chason was part-owner of Valley View Whitetails in Ohio and also owned an extensive high-fenced property containing white-tailed deer in Georgia. Wainwright, Sr., illegally shipped deer to Florida from Ohio and attempted to ship deer to Georgia from Ohio. The deer herds involved with these shipments were not certified to be free from chronic wasting disease, tuberculosis and brucellosis.

Wainwright, Sr., and Chason placed federal identification tags from a certified deer that had previously died in an ear of an uncertified deer they were selling. They then sold breeding services and semen from the deer to breeders around the United States. The defendants also sold illegal white-tailed deer hunts at the Ohio facility. They drew clients from around the country to hunt there, charging them between \$1,000 and \$50,000 to kill deer inside the preserve. The customers then took the bucks back to their home states, including Florida, Michigan, Alabama, and Virginia.

Wainwright, Sr., was recently sentenced to 21 months in prison, followed by six months' home confinement and three years' supervised release. He will pay a \$125,000 fine, perform 200 hours of community service to be served in a parks system, and was ordered to publish an article in *The Deer Breeders Gazette*. Wainwright, Jr., was sentenced to four months of home detention and three years of probation. He will pay a \$1,000 fine, \$1,000 in restitution, and perform 200 hours of community service.

This case was investigated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Sentencings

### ***United States v. Adrian Q. Brown-Sonder, No. 2:15-CR-00029 (D. Idaho), ECS Senior Trial Attorney Chris Costantini and AUSA Nancy D. Cook***

On September 15, 2015, Adrian Q. Brown-Sonder was sentenced after previously pleading guilty to violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. § 668(a)). Sonder will complete a three-year term of probation, with the first 30 days in home confinement. He will pay \$4,000 in restitution and perform 300 hours of community service. The defendant is prohibited from hunting during the term of probation and will forfeit all current hunting permits and licenses. His name will be entered into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact database.

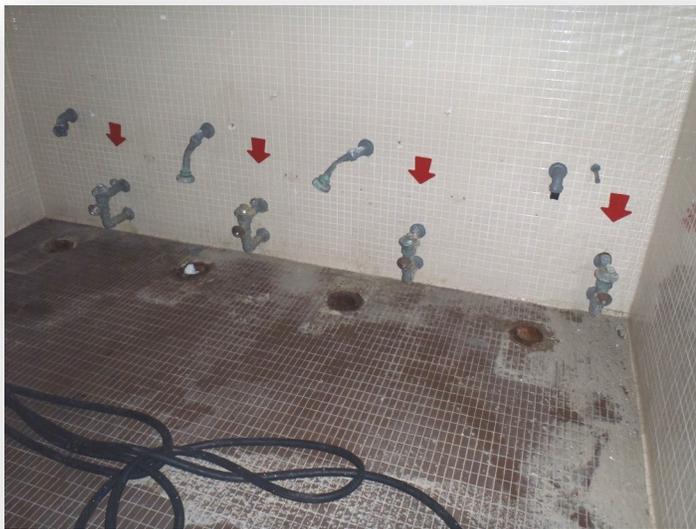
Brown-Sonder is a member of the Coeur d' Alene Indian Tribe. In July 2013, a search of his home revealed a large number of eagle and hawk feathers as well as a wide array of bird skulls and feet. Based on analyzed parts, the following individual birds were identified: two bald eagles; two golden eagles; two rough-legged hawks; two red-tailed hawks; and two unspecified dark-morph hawks. Brown-Sonder had no permits to possess these items.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### ***United States v. Albert Dickson, No. 2:15-CR-00002 (D.S.C.), AUSA Winston Holliday.***

On September 3, 2015, Albert Dickson was sentenced to a two-year term of probation, to include three months' home confinement, after pleading guilty to a Clean Water Act false statement violation (33 U.S.C. § 1319(c)(4)). A fine was not assessed.

Dickson was the project manager overseeing renovations of a federal building in Charleston in the spring and early summer of 2011. After local inspectors visited the site in June 2011, they found that asbestos had been swept into open drains, among other violations. When questioned, Dickson indicated that a filtration system had been in place at the time of the inspections; however, he actually had the system installed after the violations had been observed.



*Drains where asbestos had been dumped*

This case was investigated by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

## Environmental Crimes Section Attorneys

Position	Name	Phone
Chief	Deborah Harris	
Deputy Chief	Joseph Poux	
Assistant Chief	Thomas Ballantine	
Assistant Chief	Elinor Colbourn	
Assistant Chief	Wayne Hettenbach	
Senior Litigation Counsel	Howard P. Stewart	
Senior Litigation Counsel	Richard Udell	
Senior Counsel	Robert Anderson (Montana)	
Senior Counsel	Kris Dighe	
Senior Counsel	Rocky Piaggione	
Senior Trial Attorney	Georgiann Cerese	
Senior Trial Attorney	Christopher Costantini	
Senior Trial Attorney	Daniel Dooher	
Senior Trial Attorney	Todd Gleason	
Senior Trial Attorney	David Kehoe	
Senior Trial Attorney	Jeremy Korzenik	
Senior Trial Attorney	James Nelson	
Senior Trial Attorney	Ken Nelson	
Senior Trial Attorney	Lana Pettus	
Senior Trial Attorney	Jennifer Whitfield	
Trial Attorney	Cassandra Barnum	
Trial Attorney	Jennifer Blackwell	
Trial Attorney	Mary Dee Carraway	
Trial Attorney	Ryan Connors	
Trial Attorney	Adam Cullman	
Trial Attorney	Gary Donner	
Trial Attorney	Patrick Duggan	
Trial Attorney	Ethan Eddy	
Trial Attorney	Thomas Franzinger	
Trial Attorney	Christopher Hale	
Trial Attorney	Joel LaBissonniere (NOAA)	
Trial Attorney	Leslie Lehnert	
Trial Attorney	Brandy Parker (USCG)	
Trial Attorney	Shennie Patel	
Trial Attorney	Richard Powers	
Trial Attorney	Mark Romley	
Trial Attorney	Brendan Selby	
Trial Attorney	Lauren Steele	
Trial Attorney	Shane Waller	

## **Announcements**

On September 29, 2015, Craig Benedict, a retired Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, was presented with the third annual Raymond W. Mushal Award for Outstanding Contribution to Federal Environmental Criminal Law Enforcement. Craig was recognized for his thirty-five years of dedicated service protecting the environment through precedent-setting convictions and sentences that shaped the contours of criminal environmental enforcement.

Craig Benedict began his environmental enforcement career in 1980 in EPA's Region 5. After serving as one of the Agency's first criminal enforcement attorneys, Craig joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of New York in 1983. During his more than three decades as an AUSA, Craig contributed to the nation's environmental criminal enforcement program far beyond his own district, shaping the contours of the law and setting increasingly higher standards for imposing accountability for environmental crimes. Craig briefed and argued many appeals, obtaining a number of favorable precedents, including interpretations of the mental intent standards for RCRA and CERCLA, and applications of various sentencing guideline enhancements.

Craig was involved and invested in environmental cases from the moment an EPA's Criminal Investigation Division Agent came to him about a case or lead. He fostered a team dynamic that resulted in extraordinary sentencing outcomes and restitution for victims. While EPA's Syracuse Resident Office had fewer agents than many larger cities, it was consistently at or near the top of the nation in its prosecutorial results.

While perhaps best known for his Clean Air Act prosecutions (which were the subject of a profile in the *New York Times*), Craig's body of work extended across the spectrum of EPA's environmental protection statutes. He prosecuted groundbreaking cases involving pollution crimes at federal facilities, under RCRA and CERCLA, and under the Clean Water Act (relating to both wetlands and industrial point source pollution). Nor were Craig's extraordinary case results limited to pollution violations; he prosecuted numerous cases involving wildlife protection provisions, obtaining multi-year sentences under the Lacey Act and other statutes.

These prosecutions resulted in some of the largest environmental sentences in history: Craig obtained four of the top five, and six of the top ten longest sentences of incarceration for EPA-related offenses.

While producing an unsurpassed body of casework, Craig also served as a role model for colleagues around the country, and as a mentor to younger prosecutors. In that way too, his contributions to environmental protection will continue for decades.

With his many, many impressive prosecutorial accomplishments, the legacy of knowledge he has passed on to the current and next generation of environmental prosecutors, and the direction he has helped the case law take, Craig Benedict has made significant and long-lasting contributions to the nation and its environment.

## Announcements

In August 2015, a number of federal worker safety crimes were assigned to the Environmental Crimes Section for criminal enforcement purposes. [Title 5 of the USAM](#) has been revised to include the following: Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, Mine Safety and Health Act (MSHA) of 1977, and the Atomic Energy Act. Please contact [\[REDACTED\]](#) if you have any questions.

The [September 2015](#) issue of the U.S. Attorneys' Bulletin is devoted to wildlife crimes and features articles on Endangered Species Act habitat modification cases; federal animal protection laws; domestic fisheries enforcement; elephant ivory prosecutions; Operation Crash cases involving rhino horns; plant case prosecutions; working with NGOs in criminal wildlife cases; and sentencing in wildlife prosecutions. These articles reflect the contributions of prosecutors in ECS, ENRD's Appellate and Law and Policy Sections, and agents, scientists and regulators at FWS, NOAA and USDA.

Please send information regarding State and local cases to the [Regional Environmental Enforcement Association's Webpage](#). Updates on federal cases should be sent to [\[REDACTED\]](#).

If you are in need of sentencing data for your wildlife or pollution cases, please contact [\[REDACTED\]](#) with your search requests.