



Department of Justice

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LAWYER SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSES

LAS VEGAS, NV - The Nevada lawyer who admitted to receiving child pornography on his office computer in Las Vegas and at his residence in Maryland, was sentenced today to five years in prison and lifetime supervised release, announced Daniel G. Bogden, United States Attorney for the District of Nevada.

David Clark Whittemore, age 51, of Las Vegas, was sentenced this morning by U.S. District Judge Roger L. Hunt. He pleaded guilty in February to one count of receipt of child pornography.

“The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that, at any given time, 50,000 predators are on the Internet prowling for children,” said U.S. Attorney Bogden. “It is not an exaggeration to say that we are in the midst of an epidemic of sexual abuse and exploitation of our children. In the District of Nevada alone, we have prosecuted over 130 defendants in the last four years for sex crimes against children. We will continue to aggressively prosecute these disturbing cases.”

According to court records, in April 2005, David Clark Whittemore was interviewed by Nevada Gaming Investigators in connection with his gaming license application. Whittemore told investigators he accessed pornography websites on the Internet that were “probably illegal.” He said he had an interest in viewing pornographic images of young teenage girls, and that he printed the images for “sexual gratification.” Whittemore reported that he primarily utilized a computer located in his office at 300 S. 4th Street, in Las Vegas, but that he also had another computer at his residence in Accident, Maryland. He stated he did not possess a computer at his residence in Las Vegas, because he did not want to be tempted to access child pornography.

On April 15, 2005, members of the Southern Nevada Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) examined Whittemore’s office computer in Las Vegas and found numerous images of child pornography that had been received over the Internet. Investigators also found information concerning Whittemore’s involvement in a 2001 child pornography investigation, and an incident in 2002, in which Whittemore had been disciplined at work for using his work computer to receive child pornography images.

Investigators searched Whittemore’s computer at his home in Maryland, and determined that he had received numerous images of child pornography on that computer as well. In total, Whittemore received between 300 and 600 images of child pornography.

Mr. Whittemore is released on bond, and was ordered to self-report to federal prison no later than July 28, 2006.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

This case was investigated by the Southern Nevada ICAC Task Force. Its members include the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and FBI. ICAC Task Forces are federally funded through the U.S. Department of Justice and are designed to help state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to cyber enticement and child pornography cases. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nancy J. Koppe.

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