



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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## **NINETEEN CHARGED IN NATIONWIDE DRUG TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, Special Agent in Charge Susan McCormick, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and Mark R. Trouville, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Miami Field Division announce the unsealing of indictments charging the following individuals for their involvement in a nationwide drug trafficking and money laundering conspiracy:

Victor Yanez Gutierrez (35, Madera, California);  
Jorge Luis Yanez Gutierrez (36, address unknown);  
Maria L. Aguilar (29, Madera, California);  
Jose Jorge Monteon Delfin (42, Los Angeles, California);  
Edgar Yanez Gutierrez (25, address unknown);  
Robert Hayes (35, Tampa, Florida);  
Noemi Monteon (37, Los Angeles, California);  
Gabriel Salazar Pena (43, Manteca, California);  
Enrique Hernandez Ramirez (41, Dade City, Florida);  
Jabulani Bendar Seay (34, Tampa, Florida);  
Gwendolyn Shank (54, Tampa, Florida);  
Carlos Byron Smith (32, Tampa Florida);  
Alejandro Arias Perez (40, Dade City, Florida);  
Jennifer Lynn Thomas (32, Dade City, Florida);

Ronald Lee Carrick (50, Zephyrhills, Florida);  
Chester John Floyd (48, Lithia, Florida);  
Luis Manuel Garcia (38, Plant City, Florida);  
Pedro Lazaro Rodriguez (27, Seffner, Florida); and  
Jerry Lloyd Nichols (54, Lakeland, Florida).

If convicted on all counts, each faces a mandatory minimum term of ten years in federal prison and a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. The indictments also notify the charged individuals that the United States is seeking to forfeit any proceeds or assets which were acquired as a result of their drug trafficking activities.

According to the indictments, beginning in at least 2009 through June of this year, the defendants knowingly and willfully agreed with each other and others to possess with intent to distribute and distribute cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. During the same time period, they also agreed with each other and others to launder their drug proceeds by: (1) knowingly conducting and attempting to conduct financial transactions, with monies earned from drug trafficking; (2) knowingly conducting and attempting to conduct financial transactions with drug proceeds, in a manner designed to conceal the fact that the funds were drug proceeds; and (3) knowingly engaging in and attempting to engage in financial transactions with drug proceeds of more than \$10,000.00.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

These cases are being investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI), the Drug Enforcement

Administration, the Tampa Police Department and other federal, state, and local agencies as part of an on-going Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Investigation. They will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Josephine W. Thomas and Christopher F. Murray.