



Department of Justice

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April 27, 2011

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ARIZONA DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED

Tampa, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge James D. Whittemore has sentenced Jesus Danny Romero (35, Tucson, Arizona) to fifteen years in federal prison for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute 1000kg or more of marijuana. Romero pled guilty on January 20, 2011. The court also ordered Romero to forfeit \$24,000, which constitutes proceeds of the offense. As part of his sentence, the court also entered a money judgment in the amount of \$376,000, the proceeds of the crime.

According to court documents, Romero, and others, engaged in a years long conspiracy that involved transporting thousands of pounds of marijuana from Tucson, Arizona and Atlanta, Georgia to the Middle District of Florida. Between 2003 and 2006, Romero was responsible for more than 7,000 pounds of marijuana being distributed in the Middle District of Florida. In 2006, before being sent to an Arizona prison for drug trafficking, Romero helped to continue the conspiracy to bring marijuana to the Middle District of Florida by introducing local distributors to another source of supply in Arizona. That introduction caused an additional 9,000 pounds of marijuana to be distributed in the Middle District of Florida from 2006 through 2009. All total, Romero was held responsible

for bringing more than eight tons of marijuana into the Middle District of Florida.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office HIDTA Task Force. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Shauna S. Hale.