



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa Orlando Jacksonville Ocala Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2011
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: WILLIAM DANIELS
PHONE: (813) 274-6388
FAX: (813) 274-6300

NINE SENTENCED IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PRESCRIPTION DRUG FRAUD RING

Fort Myers, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announced today the culmination of a nine-defendant prescription fraud ring case in Southwest Florida. The following defendants, all residents of Lee County, were sentenced to federal imprisonment, respectively, for conspiring to distribute Oxycodone, Methadone, and Alprazolam.

	Age	Federal Prison Sentence	Sentencing Date
Jason Bergin	35	15 Years	3/7/2011
Robert Powner	57	11 Years	3/7/2011
Susan Hamilton	51	10 years	5/24/2010
Julie Becker	35	5 years	3/29/2010
Matthew Gross	32	5 years	8/3/2010
Jarrett Sprafka	31	6 ½ years	4/29/2010
Carey Bergin	37	6 ½ years	3/9/2011
Shandy Albert	34	6 ½ years	6/22/2010
Theresa Martinez	47	6 years	4/26/2010

This case involved fraudulent prescriptions that were passed in local pharmacies, which enabled the defendants in the conspiracy to obtain thousands of highly addictive pain medication pills, mostly Oxycodone. According to court documents, the defendants provided local pharmacies with a false telephone number, whereby one of the conspirators

pretended to be a physician's office in order to verify the fraudulent prescriptions. The heads of the drug organization, Jason and Carey Bergin, then sold a large number of the pills for profit.

This case was investigated by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force and prosecuted by Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicole Waid and Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas Molloy.

"We are combining our resources, at every level possible," said U.S. Attorney Robert O'Neill. "By sharing broader intelligence, information, and investigative strategies among our law enforcement partners, we will aggressively investigate and prosecute these types of crimes." This announcement comes following a meeting yesterday regarding the investigation and prosecution of prescription fraud and "pill mill" criminal activity that has plagued Southwest Florida. Representatives of the Drug Enforcement Administration; Florida Department of Health; Lee County Sheriff's Office; Cape Coral Police Department; Internal Revenue Service; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations; Collier County Sheriff's Department; Naples Police Department; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General; and Florida Department of Law Enforcement met at the United States Attorney's Office to coordinate combating this serious crime.