



## United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II Northern District of West Virginia

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### **TWO BROOKE COUNTY MEN CHARGED IN HEROIN DEATH CASE**

*Heroin Obtained in Steubenville, Delivered in West Virginia*

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA – Two West Virginia men have been indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly delivering heroin that caused the death of a twenty-two year old Brooke County man.

United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II, announced that CURTIS J. ADAMS, 28 years old, and JUSTIN A. WITHERS, also 28 years of age, have been charged with “Distribution of Heroin” that led to the death of a Follansbee, WV, man in March of 2011. ADAMS and WITHERS, both from Wellsburg, WV, are also charged with “Interstate Travel in Aid of Racketeering” for allegedly traveling to Steubenville, Ohio, to acquire the heroin and then back to Brooke County, West Virginia to distribute the drug to the victim.

Because the delivery of heroin is alleged to have caused the death of another both men face up to life in prison. They also face up to 5 years imprisonment on the “Interstate Travel” charge.

“The Northern Panhandle has suffered the loss of an extraordinary number of people to drug overdose deaths over the past several years,” said U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld. “Whenever we can prove who provided the drugs that caused a drug overdose death then we’re going to be very aggressive in prosecuting those who are responsible.”

ADAMS has appeared before Magistrate Judge James E. Seibert and was released on bond. WITHERS is in the custody of the State of West Virginia on unrelated charges. Both will appear for their arraignments on February 15, 2013.

The case was investigated by the Hancock-Brooke-Weirton Drug Task Force, the Follansbee Police Department, and the Wellsburg Police Department. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen L. Vogrin. The charges contained in the indictment are merely accusations and are not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.