

For Immediate Release  
July 28, 2011

**LONG-HAUL TRUCK DRIVER FROM MICHIGAN RECEIVES 164-MONTH  
PRISON SENTENCE FOR FEDERAL MARIJUANA CONVICTION**

LAS CRUCES – On July 26, 2011, in federal court in Las Cruces, **Vernon Earl Coleman**, 46, of Detroit, Michigan, was sentenced to 164 months in prison for his conviction for possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute. Coleman will be on supervised release for four years after he completes his prison sentence. Coleman has been in federal custody since his arrest on April 2, 2010.

At the time of his arrest in this case, Coleman was on federal supervised release for a 2007 drug trafficking conviction. Coleman received an additional six-month sentence for violating his conditions of supervised release.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said Coleman was arrested after officers found 759 pounds of marijuana in Coleman's tractor trailer at the Port of Entry on I-10 west of Lordsburg, New Mexico, on April 2, 2010. According to the criminal complaint filed in the case, on the afternoon of April 2, 2010, Coleman drove his tractor-trailer into the New Mexico Motor and Transportation Division Port of Entry on I-10 west of Lordsburg. During a safety inspection of the tractor trailer, officers found duffle bags containing 759 pounds of marijuana between the pallets inside the trailer.

Coleman was indicted on September 14, 2010 and charged with conspiracy and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and entered a guilty plea to the indictment on April 13, 2011.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the New Mexico Motor and Transportation Division, and New Mexico State Police, and was prosecuted by

Assistant United States Attorneys Jacob A. Wishard and Michael Nammar.

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