



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

For Immediate Release
August 18, 2009

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Huge Quantities of Marijuana Transported from Las Vegas to Atlanta

Monroe, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **DEIDRE DANIELS BUTLER, 36**, of Ventura, California, was sentenced to 15 years in prison on Monday in U. S. District Court by Chief United States District Judge Robert G. James for drug trafficking charges. BUTLER was also sentenced to 8 years of supervised release upon her release from prison.

BUTLER, along with three co-defendants, was charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana in a one-count indictment filed February 27, 2008, following a traffic stop in Monroe, Louisiana, and the discovery of a trunk load of marijuana. BUTLER was found guilty at trial in March 2009. Testimony at trial revealed that BUTLER, who was the transportation coordinator for the operation, was responsible for over 3,000 pounds of marijuana transported during trips from Las Vegas, Nevada, to Atlanta, Georgia.

Co-defendants Mary Spearman-Howard and Gilda Porter previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana and were each sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with three years of supervised release. A third co-defendant has not been arrested.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated: “Reducing the supply of illegal drugs to our state is a major law enforcement priority. As drug traffickers like Deidre Butler have become more sophisticated, so have federal, state, and local law enforcement organizations. We pledge to use every tool of the 21st century available to law enforcement to continue aggressive, offensive investigations to target, investigate, and prosecute drug trafficking organizations.”

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by Special Agent Darryl Cowan of the Drug Enforcement Administration and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James G. Cowles, Jr.

###