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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2010
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DRUG DEALERS SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

LAFAYETTE-OPELOUSAS, LA. – Two members of a local drug trafficking organization were sentenced today in federal court on charges of conspiring to traffic in illegal narcotics, distribution of cocaine, and maintaining a drug involved premise, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced. The organization distributed both powder cocaine and “crack” cocaine from 2002 until their arrest in 2007. Between 2005 and 2006, the organization distributed approximately 8 kilograms of cocaine every other week to local dealers. The sentences were handed down by United States District Judge Rebecca F. Doherty.

Roderick G. Aaron, 36, of Opelousas, will serve 20 years in prison, followed by 10 years of supervised release upon conclusion of his prison sentence. Monique J. Roberts, 29, of Opelousas, was sentenced to 57 months in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release. Aaron has been detained since his arrest in February 2009, and pled guilty to the drug conspiracy charge. Roberts was convicted at trial in January 2010, for maintaining a drug involved premise.

Brandon D. Anders, 31, of Opelousas, previously pled guilty and faces a statutory minimum of 10 years to life in prison when he is sentenced at a later date.

Court documents show that Aaron and Anders had been obtaining large amounts of powder cocaine, which they would then convert into cocaine base, or “crack” cocaine, and distribute to users and other lower level drug dealers for a profit. Roberts made her mobile home located on Roper Drive in Scott, La., available for the purpose of manufacturing, storing, and distributing the cocaine base. Trial testimony revealed that a .38 caliber semiautomatic pistol and \$7,485 in cash were seized from the defendants.

The case was investigated by the Opelousas Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney J. Collin Sims.

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