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**MEMBER OF DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION  
SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

**Lafayette, La.:** United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today that Julian Alberto Valenzuela-Beltran, 28, a member of a drug trafficking organization based out of Vermilion Parish, was sentenced in federal court yesterday to 14 years in prison and five years supervised release following imprisonment. The sentence is a result of Valenzuela-Beltran's plea of guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and cocaine. The sentence was handed down by U. S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote.

Valenzuela-Beltran and 11 co-defendants were indicted in June of 2009 on a variety of drug trafficking and firearms charges, along with unlawful use of communication facilities. Evidence revealed that this drug trafficking organization was responsible for the movement and sale of methamphetamine and cocaine from Mexico into the United States, and distribution throughout the Acadiana area. Valenzuela-Beltran and his co-conspirators possessed and distributed kilos of methamphetamine and cocaine. The defendant admitted that he was a courier for the methamphetamine and cocaine distribution group that moved and sold the cocaine and methamphetamine to and from Mexico. He also acknowledged that he was specifically responsible for the distribution of approximately eight kilograms of methamphetamine and approximately three kilograms of cocaine.

United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley stated, "Drug trafficking of any kind is a threat to our communities. The U. S. Attorney's Office, along with the Drug Enforcement Administration and our local and state partners, will continue to vigorously investigate, arrest, indict and seek appropriate sentences for anyone who engages in this trade. We are committed to holding drug dealers, from the couriers to leaders, accountable to keep our communities safe."

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Lafayette, La. Post of Duty, the Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office and the Lafayette Metro Narcotics Task Force and was prosecuted by United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley.

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