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**MAIN TARGET OF FEDERAL INVESTIGATION
PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGES**

Shreveport, La.: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today that Darien L. Reliford of Shreveport pled guilty on Friday, July 13, 2012, before U. S. District Judge Donald Walter to conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute. Reliford now faces a penalty of a mandatory 20 years to life imprisonment. Reliford's son, Darien Jones, plead guilty to the same cocaine conspiracy on March 22, 2012, and faces a mandatory 10 years to life imprisonment. Sentencing dates have not been set.

On December 14, 2011, both Relifords and 11 others were indicted after an investigation conducted by the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). The investigation revealed that Darien Reliford obtained large quantities of cocaine from Dallas for distribution in Shreveport. Several kilograms of cocaine worth approximately \$100,000, firearms, and approximately \$120,000 in cash have been seized during the course of this investigation.

Others convicted in this cocaine conspiracy are Kurt Abrone, Ochelata Reliford, Derrick Waffer, Timothy Ellis, Randy Randall, Lagashia Woodard, Cecil Cole, and Tamika Barrett, all of Shreveport. They each face a mandatory 10 years to life imprisonment for their roles in this cocaine trafficking network in Shreveport. Terry Pouncy faces up to 20 years plus 5 years consecutive for firearm and cocaine offenses, and Robin R. James faces a mandatory 20 years to life.

OCDETF is a joint federal, state and local cooperative approach to combat drug trafficking and is the nation's primary tool for disrupting and dismantling major drug trafficking organizations, targeting national and regional level drug trafficking organizations and coordinating the necessary law enforcement entities and resources to disrupt or dismantle the targeted criminal organization and seize their assets.

This case was investigated by agents and officers of the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, U. S. Marshall Service, Louisiana State Police, Shreveport Police Department, and Caddo Parish Sheriff's Offices. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorneys James G. Cowles, Jr.

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