



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin

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16th Member of Cocaine Distribution Conspiracy Sentenced to Prison

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Scott Thorsen, 34, Ixonia, Wis., was sentenced to 54 months in prison today in U.S. District Court in Madison for conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute.

Thorsen is the 16th drug dealer sentenced to prison as a result of the long-term investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration; Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations; Dodge County Sheriff's Department; Jefferson County Drug Task Force; Fort Atkinson Police Department; Watertown Police Department; and Janesville Police Department into drug crimes in Jefferson County.

Fifteen other individuals were previously sentenced:

Name	Crime of Conviction	Sentence Imposed
Maximo Pineda-Buenaventura	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	17 years, 6 months
Servando Herrera-Vazquez	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	11 years, 8 months

Name	Crime of Conviction	Sentence Imposed
Efrain Pineda-Buenaventura	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	10 years
Teodulo Pineda-Buenaventura	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	5 years
Otoniel Mendoza	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	5 years
James Hrobsky	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	2 years, 6 months
Will Bryant	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	4 years, 4 months
Jesus Duque-Pineda	Distribution of Cocaine	6 months
Arturo Pineda-Lopez	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	3 years, 1 month
Perfecto Pineda-Duque	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	3 years, months
Juan C. Pineda-Pineda	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	1 year
Harold Hausz	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	5 years
Eli Torres-Banos	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	1 year
Gerado Pineda-Soria	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	2 years, 6 months
Arnold Wood	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	5 years

Pursuant to federal law, all of these sentences are being served without the possibility of parole. In addition, several individuals who have been indicted for their role in the conspiracy remain fugitives: Angel Ayala-Pineda, Celestino Velazquez-

Rodriguez, Martin Pineda-Pineda, and Emmanuel Pineda-Gonzalez.

Beginning in February 2008, the United States received authority from Chief Judge Crabb to conduct wiretaps on several of the telephones being used by Pineda-Buenaventura and his co-conspirators to conduct a drug operation run out of multiple dwellings in Watertown and a residence in Janesville. Approximately 8000 calls were monitored by law enforcement officers between February and June in which Thorsen and others were overheard conducting drug transactions and making arrangements to facilitate the sale of large amounts of cocaine in the Western District of Wisconsin.

On June 19, 2008, law enforcement officers executed 11 search warrants in the Western and Eastern Districts of Wisconsin, resulting in the arrest of several defendants in Watertown, the seizure of over \$100,000 in United States currency, several automobiles, and multiple kilograms of cocaine.

The prosecution of this case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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