



PRESS RELEASE

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REPEAT OFFENDER SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IN FEDERAL DRUG CASE

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Ryan P. Rochester, 32, Stoddard, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 120 months in prison for his involvement in a conspiracy to distribute in excess of 120 kilograms of marijuana between December 2007 and November 2008. Rochester pleaded guilty to the conspiracy on March 16, 2009.

This was not Rochester's first conviction. He was previously convicted in federal court for distributing ecstasy, receiving a 63-month sentence in 2002. While serving his federal prison sentence, he met an inmate from California and concocted a scheme to distribute marijuana from California to Wisconsin after both men were released from federal prison.

Rochester was released in 2006 and began distributing marijuana from California in December 2007. The marijuana sold for up to \$4,400 per pound, and Rochester was involved with approximately 120 kilograms (approximately 264 pounds) over the

course of the conspiracy.

Rochester faced a mandatory sentence of at least ten years in prison based on the large amount of marijuana sold and his prior drug conviction. In addition to the ten-year sentence, Rochester was also sentenced to an additional 11 months in prison for violating his supervised release conditions.

The charges against Rochester were the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Wisconsin Department of Justice-Division of Criminal Investigation, La Crosse Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Vernon County Sheriff's Department, Wisconsin State Patrol, and various law enforcement agencies in Southern California. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

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