

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
STATE OF MONTANA

Austin Knudson
Attorney General



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RE: Legislative Report on Narcotics FY 23

Cases Charged: 35; one case submitted by DCI as a DEA TFO – it was a MRDTF case; one case investigated by DCI and HSI, and three cases referred by DEA but investigated by DCI during the relevant time period.

U.S. v. Colton James Conroy, CR-22-55-M-DWM

- PWID Fentanyl and Distribution of Fentanyl
- Charged by indictment November 2022
- *Cases submitted by DCI as a DEA TFO – it was a MRDTF case.*

U.S. v. Doug Malaterre, CR 23-80-GF-BMM

- Possession w/ Intent to Distribute Fentanyl
- Charged by indictment August 17, 2023, but conduct occurred in Nov 2022

U.S. v. Robert John Bigback, CR 23-57-BLG-SPW

- Prohibited Person In Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition (18 USC 922(g)(1))
- Charged by indictment on May 18, 2023

U.S. v. Timothy Lucas, CR-22-124-BLG-DLC

- Conspiracy, Possession w/ Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances, and Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking crime
- Charged by indictment October 2022

U.S. v. Michael Owens and Crystal Gutierrez, CR-22-144-BLG-SPW

- Conspiracy, Possession w/ Intent to Distribute Controlled Substance, and Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking crime

U.S. v. Cory Dickinson, CR-22-107-BLG-DLC

- Conspiracy and Possession w/ Intent to Distribute Cocaine
- Charged by indictment
- *Investigated by DCI and HIS*

U.S. v. David Jesus Tapia-Padron and Austin Perry King-Terrell

- Possession w/ Intent to Distribute Cocaine (Tapia-Padron only) and Illegal Importation of Tableting Machine.
- Charged by Indictment on August 23, 2023

- *Referred by DEA but investigated by several DCI agents during the relevant time period*

U.S. v. Bret Hamlin & Mark Beachem, CR 23-08-H-BMM

- PWID Meth, Attempted Distribution of Meth, Attempted PWID Meth, Conspiracy to PWID Meth, and Drug User in Possession of a Firearm

U.S. v. Laura Shively, CR 23-09-H-BMM

- Conspiracy to PWID Meth, PWID Meth, and Distribution of Meth

U.S. v. Lynsi Noel Barnes; Beau James Breneman; Nikolas Loren Pellant; and Janelle Ann Bergeson

- Conspiracy to PWID (Fentanyl and Meth) and PWID.
- Charged by indictment on August 23, 2023
- *Referred by DEA but investigated by several DCI agents during the relevant time period*

U.S. v. Juan Felipe Vidrio Fuentes, CR 23-10-BU-DLC

- PWID Fentanyl and Distribution of Fentanyl
- Charged by indictment 06/28/2023

U.S. v. Martin Topete Garcia, CR 23-10-BU-DLC

- PWID Fentanyl and Distribution of Fentanyl, Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime
- Charged by indictment 06/28/2023

U.S. v. Jonathan Topete CR 23-10-BU-DLC

- PWID Fentanyl and Distribution of Fentanyl, Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime
- Charged by indictment 06/28/2023

U.S. v. Trevor Allen Handy, CR 23-10-BU-DLC

- PWID Fentanyl and Distribution of Fentanyl
- Charged by indictment 06/28/2023

U.S. v. Anthony Wayne Johnson II, CR 23-10-BU-DLC

- PWID Fentanyl and Distribution of Fentanyl, Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime
- Charged by indictment 06/28/2023

U.S. v. James Andrew Stringari, CR 23-10-BU-DLC

- PWID Fentanyl and Distribution of Fentanyl
- Charged by indictment 06/28/2023

U.S. v. Janet Dean White, CR 23-10-BU-DLC

- PWID Fentanyl and Distribution of Fentanyl, Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime
- Charged by indictment 06/28/2023

U.S. v. Agatha Noriz Carranza, CR 23-10-BU-DLC

- PWID Fentanyl and Distribution of Fentanyl
- Charged by indictment 06/28/2023

U.S. v. Jeremiah Lescantz

- Conspiracy, Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime.

U.S. v. Kevin McLeod

- Conspiracy, Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime.

U.S. v. Hunter Kanenwisher

- Conspiracy, Poss. with Intent to Distribute.

U.S. v. Ryan Doak

- Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime, Felon in Poss. of a firearm.

U.S. v. Shayden Westfall

- Conspiracy, Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime, Felon in Poss. of a Firearm.

U.S. Joseph Schrantz

- Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Felon in Poss. of a Firearm.

U.S. v. Heather COFFEE

- Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime.

U.S v. Lance Couchane

- Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime.

U.S. v. Brittany Lewis

- Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime.

U.S. v. Robert Spearson

- Poss. with Intent to Distribute.

U.S. v. Marcus Williams

- Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime.

U.S. v. James Batterton

- Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime.

U.S. v. Jeri Phillips

- Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime.

U.S. v. Lyle Zornes

- Poss. with Intent to Distribute, Poss. of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Crime.

U.S. v. Eduardo Norzagaray-Gonzalez

- Illegal Reentry

U.S. v. Aaron Lee Grossman

- Theft of Government Money; False Statements to a Government Agency; Social Security Fraud

U.S. v. Andrew Kyle Whittecar

- Conspiracy to PWID (Fentanyl, Meth), PWID, 924(c), 922(g)(1), Money Laundering
- *Referred by DEA but investigated in part by DCI*