



Department of Justice

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FORMER DEA SPECIAL AGENT PLEADS GUILTY

Gregory Champion Agrees To Sentence of At Least 15 Months In Prison

Atlanta, GA - GREGORY CAMPION, 46, of Orlando, Florida, pleaded guilty today in federal district court to failing to report more than \$200,000 in cash income he obtained in 2004, while serving as a Special Agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") in Atlanta, Georgia. CAMPION resigned from DEA before his plea hearing.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of today's plea, "This defendant blatantly violated the oath he took to uphold the law and thereby marred the reputation for honesty and integrity that federal law enforcement officers deserve. His guilty plea and his agreement to accept a sentence of at least 15 months in prison is a fitting response to his acts of corruption."

In Miami, DOJ Office of the Inspector General Special Agent in Charge Teresa Gulotta-Powers said, "The OIG is committed to ensuring the integrity of the Department of Justice by vigorously investigating any law enforcement agents within the Department who abuse their special positions of trust and authority."

Rodney G. Benson, the Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Atlanta Field Division said, "It's important to know that DEA has the responsibility of investigating all allegations of misconduct internally. Law enforcement officers take an oath to serve and protect the public. Mr. Champion violated this oath. His acceptance of this plea agreement will not only send him to prison, but will bring an end to his law enforcement career."

IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent In Charge Rebecca A. Sparkman said, "When someone does not pay their fair share of their tax obligation, they not only cheat the federal government, they cheat all law-abiding citizens who do pay their taxes. This particularly includes the responsibilities of someone in law enforcement. We are committed to aggressively pursue those who commit tax crimes regardless of the source of the unreported income."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court today: Between 2003 and 2005, CAMPION was a back-up supervisor at a DEA Task Force office in Atlanta. In this position he had access to millions of dollars of cash seized from suspected drug traffickers. The Government presented evidence that several seizures conducted during this time were short, that is, that the final amount counted by the bank was thousands of dollars less than the original amount seized. During that same time, CAMPION deposited over \$200,000 in cash in his accounts, none of which was reported as income on his tax returns.

CAMPION was indicted in March 2006. Today CAMPION pleaded guilty to one count of making false statements on a tax return. As part of the plea, he agreed that the Court can find that substantial amounts of his unreported income resulted from criminal activity, and does not contest the Government's evidence that he stole substantial amounts of cash from drug money seized in narcotics investigations. CAMPION could receive a maximum sentence of three years in prison, a fine of up to \$100,000, and full restitution. As part of his plea agreement, CAMPION agreed to accept a sentence of at least 15 months in prison. He also agreed to never apply for or obtain employment at any state, federal or local law enforcement agency.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 15, 2008, at 2 p.m., before United States District Judge Jack T. Camp. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the United States Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General, the DEA's Office of Professional Responsibility, and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division.

Assistant United States Attorneys Justin S. Anand and Kurt R. Erskine are prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.