



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **DEA AGENT CHARGED WITH OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE, PERJURY IN CONNECTION WITH MANSFIELD, OHIO DRUG INVESTIGATION**

United States Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan and Glenn A. Fine, Inspector General, United States Department of Justice, announced today, May 13, 2009, the unsealing of an 18-count indictment returned on May 12, 2009 in the Northern District of Ohio (Cleveland), charging Lee Michael Lucas, a Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration, with seven counts of obstruction of justice; one count of making false statements in official reports; seven counts of perjury; and three counts of violating individuals' civil rights. Each count of obstruction of justice carries a possible penalty of up to 10 years in prison. The false statement and perjury charges are punishable by up to 5 years in prison, and the civil rights violations are punishable by up to 1 year in prison.

The indictment alleges that, during September through November 2005, a DEA informant, operating under the control of Lucas, intentionally framed 17 individuals

during the course of 13 controlled drug buys carried out in the City of Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio. Lucas is alleged to have placed false statements in his reports of the transactions, to have suppressed evidence favorable to an accused from prosecutors and the courts, and to have perjured himself before the District Court at a detention hearing and the two trials that ensued from the investigation.

The informant, Jerrell Bray, age 36, formerly of Mansfield and Cleveland, pleaded guilty in federal court in Cleveland on December 20, 2007, to five counts of violating individuals' civil rights and two counts of perjury. Bray was sentenced that same day by United States District Judge Solomon Oliver, Jr. to 15 years' imprisonment.

Lee Lucas, age 41, of Cleveland, Ohio, surrendered today to Special Agents of the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General, in Cleveland. Lucas made his initial appearance before United States District Judge Solomon Oliver, Jr., and was released on bond.

It is noted that an indictment is merely a charge and that Lee Michael Lucas is presumed to be innocent pending judicial determination of the matter.

The investigation was conducted by Office of the Inspector General, Chicago Field Office Assistant Special Agent in Charge Kimberly Thomas and the Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of Professional Responsibility. Assistant United States Attorneys Bruce J. Teitelbaum and Michael A. Comber of the Western District of Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh Office) have been designated by the Attorney General to coordinate the prosecution of this matter in the Northern District of Ohio.