

The J Group's EDLA SENTENCING NEWSLETTER



WEEK OF
AUG 9 TO AUG 15

AUGUST 19, 2026 ISSUE

False Statements and more...

.... see what happened this past week in the Eastern District of Louisiana

CASE SPOTLIGHT

United States v. Powell (EDLA 25-cr-280)

What's the Basis?: According to the factual basis, in April 2021, **Powell** applied for a PPP loan claiming to operate a sole proprietorship, which purportedly provided "travel arrangements." In support of the application, **Powell** submitted fake documents to secure a \$4,528 PPP loan.

Just days later, **Powell** submitted a second-draw application using the same false information and tax documents. She received another \$4,528. Later that month, she applied for another loan in the name of a different company. **Powell** supported the application with additional fake documents. The third loan, in the amount of \$19,950, was approved and deposited into a newly opened bank account.

According to the factual basis, the bank records indicated that Powell spent the proceeds on personal expenses. All loans were forgiven based on false representations from **Powell** that they were used for legitimate business purposes.

What's the Violation?: **Powell** pled guilty Making False Statements to the Small Business Administration in violation of **18 U.S.C. § 1001**.

What's the Punishment?: Judge Lance M. Africk sentenced **Powell** to **24 months of probation** and ordered her to pay **\$36,123.52 in restitution**.

This Week's Other Matters

U.S. V. MORALES, 23-CR-225

Charge: Distribution of Five Grams or More of Methamphetamine
(21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) & 841(b)(1)(B))

Sentence: 66 months of imprisonment; 3 years of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Carl J. Barbier

U.S. V. BUGGAGE, 25-CR-205

Charge: Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess a Quantity of a Mixture and Substance of Tapendadol and Marijuana; Possession of Firearms in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime; and Felon in Possession of Firearms.
(18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1); 924(c)(1)(A)(i); 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and (b)(1)(D); 846)

Sentence: 117 months of imprisonment; 3 years of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Carl J. Barbier

WHAT'S THAT STATUTE?

CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW FOR MORE
DETAILS ON THE VIOLATIONS INCLUDED IN
THIS WEEK'S EDITION

- [18 U.S.C. § 922](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 924](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 1001](#)
- [21 U.S.C. § 841](#)
- [21 U.S.C. § 846](#)



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