



## Assault of a Postal Employee and more...

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

### CASE SPOTLIGHT

#### United States v. Harris

#### 25-cr-086

**What's the Basis?:** According to the Factual Basis, on December 16, 2024, Jody Fitzgerald Harris, Jr. approached a USPS carrier in the 8400 block of Forshey Street, brandished a 9mm Beretta pistol, and demanded mail and valuables while threatening to shoot. Fearing for his life, the carrier surrendered a mail satchel, scanner, postal vehicle keys, arrow key, and personal cellphone. Investigators quickly identified Harris through real-time crime camera footage and GPS tracking from the stolen mail scanner. A search warrant executed at a nearby residence led to the recovery of the firearm, stolen mail, and multiple USPS items. Harris, who has prior felony convictions including attempted second-degree murder and drug offenses, was prohibited from possessing a firearm.

**What's the Violation?:** Mr. Harris pled guilty to **Assault of a Postal Employee and Felon in Possession of a Firearm** in violation of **18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1), 924(a)(8), and 2114(a)**.

**What's the Punishment?:** Judge Susie Morgan sentenced Mr. Harris to **144 months of imprisonment and 5 years of supervised release**.

### This Week's Other Matters

#### U.S. v. BEY, 25-CR-86

**Charge:** Conspiracy  
(18 U.S.C. § 371)

**Sentence:** 6 months of imprisonment; 3 years of supervised release.

**Judge:** Honorable Susie Morgan

#### U.S. v. WALTER NIETO-CASTELLANOS, 25-CR-261

**Charge:** Assault on a Federal Officer  
(18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1); 111(b))

**Sentence:** TIME SERVED

**Judge:** Honorable Carl J. Barbier

#### WHAT'S THAT STATUTE?

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

- [8 U.S.C. § 1326](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 371](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 111](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 922](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 924](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 2114](#)
- [21 U.S.C. § 846](#)



**U.S. V. MEDINA-AYALA, 25-CR-166**

**Charge:** Illegal Reentry of Removed Alien  
(8 U.S.C. § 1326(a))

**Sentence:** TIME SERVED

**Judge:** Honorable Nannette Jolivette Brown

**U.S. V. WHITE, 23-CR-63**

**Charge:** Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Cocaine  
(21 U.S.C. § 846)

**Sentence:** TIME SERVED

**Judge:** Honorable Nannette Jolivette Brown

**U.S. V. HOLMES, 20-CR-045**

**(REVOCACTION)** Violation of Mandatory Conditions of Supervised Release: Testing Positive for Controlled Substances (multiple violations)

**Sentence:** 1 month of home confinement.

**Judge:** Honorable Barry W. Ashe

**U.S. V. BLANK, 18-CR-069**

**(REVOCACTION)** Violation of Mandatory Conditions of Supervised Release: Testing Positive for Controlled Substances (multiple violations); Possessing Dangerous Weapons; Possessing Controlled Substances.

**Sentence:** 14 months of imprisonment.

**Judge:** Honorable Mary Ann Vial Lemmon

**U.S. V. JACKSON, 18-CR-069**

**(REVOCACTION)** Violation of Mandatory, Standard, and Special Conditions of Supervised Release: Testing Positive for Controlled Substances (multiple violations); Failure to Attend Substance Abuse Classes; Failure to Maintain Full Time Employment; Failure to Attend Anger Management Classes.

**Sentence:** TIME SERVED.

**Judge:** Honorable Jay C. Zainey



# DYK?

Did you know? Crimes against United States Postal Service employees (particularly assaults and armed robberies) have increased sharply in recent years.

According to the Government Accountability Office, in FY 2023 there were **approximately 600 robberies** against postal employees nationwide—an **increase of nearly sevenfold from FY 2019**. Assaults and burglaries targeting USPS employees have also risen, with firearms increasingly involved in these incidents.

In many of these cases, robbers have specifically targeted “arrow keys.” These keys provide access to multiple mailboxes, allowing offenders to steal mail from numerous addressees over extended periods of time.

Today’s Case Spotlight highlights the judiciary’s efforts to impose serious sentences aimed at deterring this conduct.



**Psalms 69:33 - For the Lord hears the poor, And does not despise His prisoners.**

**Heed His word and pray for the detained,  
incarcerated, and less fortunate among us.**