

The J Group's EDLA SENTENCING NEWSLETTER



WEEK OF
SEP 6 TO SEP 12

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 ISSUE

Drug Trafficking and more...

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

CASE SPOTLIGHT

United States v. Lewis

24-cr-019

What's the Basis?: According to the factual basis, Louisiana State Police, working with the New Orleans Police Department, observed a Jeep Wrangler of interest parked. Investigators maintained surveillance as the Jeep departed with four occupants. When the Jeep attempted to pass through a red light at a busy intersection, it collided with several vehicles and flipped onto its side. *Lewis* was inside the vehicle.

At the crash scene, officers observed two firearms, loose ammunition, and a bag containing suspected heroin on the ground beside the Jeep. They could also see a rifle protruding from a backpack inside the vehicle. Those observations led to the officers obtaining a search warrant. The ensuing search uncovered four firearms, including a semiautomatic rifle; *Lewis's* Louisiana identification; \$1,643 in cash; and distributable quantities of several controlled substances. The drugs included cocaine, fentanyl and para-fluorofentanyl, methamphetamine, marijuana, Tapentadol, and Suboxone.

Lewis admitted that he possessed the drugs with the intent to sell them and that he possessed a firearm in furtherance of those intended drug sales. He also admitted that he knew he was prohibited from possessing firearms.

What's the Violation?: *Lewis* pleaded guilty to Possession with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances, Possession of Firearms in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime, and being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g), 924(a), 924(c); 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), (b)(1)(D).

What's the Punishment?: The Honorable Wendy B. Vitter sentenced *Lewis* to 130 months of imprisonment and five years of supervised release.

This Week's Other Matters

U.S. v. HULBERT, 23-CR-099

Charge: Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute 40 Grams or More of a Substance Containing a Detectable Amount of Fentanyl; Possession with Intent to Distribute a Mixture and Substances Containing Detectable Amount of Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and Fentanyl; Possession of Firearms in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime (18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(i); 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), 846)

Sentence: 120 months of imprisonment and 5 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](#)
- [21 U.S.C. § 841](#)
- [21 U.S.C. § 846](#)



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650 Poydras Street, Suite 2435
New Orleans, LA 70130
504-285-3872