

The J Group's EDLA SENTENCING NEWSLETTER



WEEK OF
JUL 12 TO JUL 18

JULY 22, 2026 ISSUE

Obstruction of Mail Delivery and more...

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

CASE SPOTLIGHT

United States v. Perria

26-cr-039

What's the Basis?: According to the factual basis, the USPS Office of Inspector General began investigating after **multiple batches of discarded mail were discovered throughout New Orleans during the summer of 2025**. Investigators traced three separate "mail dumps" to routes assigned to **Perria**, who was employed by the USPS.

Perria later admitted to discarding the mail. He further admitted that although he knew discarding mail was a crime, he **chose to throw away undelivered mail near his residence rather than return it to the post office because he feared losing his job for failure to complete his routes**. Approximately 2,000 pieces of first-class and certified mail addressed to roughly 240 individuals were discarded.

What's the Violation?: Perria pled guilty to **Obstruction of Mail**, in violation of **18 U.S.C. § 1701**.

What's the Punishment?: The Honorable Judge Wendy B. Vitter sentenced **Perria** to **1 year of probation and 50 hours of unpaid community service**.

This Week's Other Matters

U.S. V. TURNER, A., 23-CR-176

Charge: Conspiracy to Committ Wire Fraud
(18 U.S.C. § 371)

Sentence: 18 months of probation.

Judge: Honorable Sarah S. Vance

U.S. V. TURNER, T., 23-CR-176

Charge: Conspiracy to Committ Wire Fraud
(18 U.S.C. § 371)

Sentence: 18 months of probation.

Judge: Honorable Sarah S. Vance

U.S. V. ROBINSON, 25-CR-086

Charge: Conspiracy
(18 U.S.C. § 371)

Sentence: 6 months of imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Susie Morgan

WHAT'S THAT STATUTE?

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

- [18 U.S.C. § 2](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 371](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 922](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 924](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 1701](#)
- [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

U.S. V. FREYRE-SOTO, 23-CR-268

Charge: Conspiracy to Distribute and Posses with the Intent to Distribute Cocaine; Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine

(18 U.S.C. § 2; 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), and 846)

Sentence: 35 months of imprisonment and 4 years of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Darrel J. Papillion

U.S. V. CHEN, 25-CR-137

Charge: Possession with Intent to Distribute a Mixture Containing a Detectable Amount of Cocaine and Heroin; Felon in Possession of a Firearm; Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine; Possession with Intent to Distribute Tapentadol; Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime; Felon in Possession of a Firearm

(18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), 924(c); 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), (b)(2))

Sentence: 97 months of imprisonment and 5 years of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Susie Morgan

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

Charge: Possession of Firearm in Furtherance of Drug Trafficking Crime (2 counts)

(18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(i))

Sentence: 120 months of imprisonment and 5 years of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Carl J. Barbier

U.S. V. WINDING, 25-CR-045

Charge: Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl and Methamphetamine; Distribution of Fentanyl (two counts); Distribution of Methamphetamine (2 counts); Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime; Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine and Marijuana

(18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 924(c); 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), (b)(1)(C), (b)(1)(D))

Sentence: 180 months of imprisonment and 5 years of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Wendy B. Vitter

U.S. V. AUGUSTIN, 25-CR-187

Charge: Theft of Government Funds
(18 U.S.C. § 641)

Sentence: 3 years of probation.

Judge: Honorable Carl J. Barbier

U.S. V. WILLIAMS, 26-CR-013

Violation of Mandatory and Standard Conditions of Supervised Release: Submitting urine that tested positive for illicit narcotics; Being arrested and charged in multiple other criminal matters.

Sentence: TIME SERVED.

Judge: Honorable Jay C. Zainey

DID YOU KNOW?

Today's Case Spotlight focuses on 18 U.S.C. § 1701, which makes it a federal crime to knowingly and willfully obstruct or retard the passage of United States mail. "Passage of mail" extends from the time mail is deposited into the postal system until it reaches the intended recipient. Accordingly, discarding mail before delivery constitutes an obstruction of its passage, even if the mail is never opened or stolen.

Unlike many federal fraud cases involving financial loss, prosecutions involving the obstruction of mail focus on protecting the integrity of the nation's mail system. The government is not required to prove that the defendant intended to steal mail or obtain a financial benefit. Instead, the offense is complete when a person knowingly obstructs or delays the passage of United States mail.