The J Group's
EDLA SENTENCING NEWSLETTER

WEEK OF
OCT 25 TO OCT 31

NOVEMBER 4, 2026 ISSUE

Stolen Checks and more...

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

CASE SPOTLIGHT

United States v. Myles
25-cr-291

What's the Basis? According to the factual basis, a credit union fraud investigator's report of a stolen and altered check led postal inspectors to ***Myles***. **Investigators determined that *Myles* stole mail and outgoing checks from residential mailboxes in Metairie, deposited altered checks, and withdrew the proceeds. ATM surveillance and fingerprints recovered from two checks supported his involvement**.

When officers located ***Myles***, he attempted to flee on foot. **A search of Myles' vehicle revealed a Glock 9mm handgun, approximately 30 pieces of stolen mail, debit and credit cards, and check-printing materials**. Investigators traced the firearm to a purchase from a licensed dealer in New Orleans. They determined that ***Myles*** **used a fraudulent driver's license displaying his photograph alongside another person's identifying information**. H**e also falsely denied having prior felony convictions on ATF Form 4473**, despite knowing that he was prohibited from possessing a firearm.

What's the Violation? Myles pled guilty to ***Making a False Statement to a Firearms Dealer, Aggravated Identity Theft, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Theft of Mail,*** in violation of ***18 U.S.C. §§ 922(a)(6), 924(a)(2), 1028A(a)(1), 922(g)(1), 924(a)(8), and 1708.***

What's the Punishment? The Honorable Lance M. Africk sentenced ***Myles*** to **42 months of imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release.** The restitution determination was deferred.

This Week's Other Matters

U.S. v. Smith, 23-cr-99

Charge: Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl; Felon in Possession of a Firearm; Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity
((21 U.S.C. § 846; 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1), 924(a)(8), 1957))
Sentence: **151 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 WEEKS' EDITION

- 8 U.S.C. § 1326
- 18 U.S.C. § 922
- 18 U.S.C. § 924
- 18 U.S.C. § 1028A
- 18 U.S.C. § 1708
- 18 U.S.C. § 1957
- 18 U.S.C. § 1959
- 18 U.S.C. § 1962
- 18 U.S.C. § 2252
- 21 U.S.C. § 841
- 21 U.S.C. § 846

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U.S. v. Aguilar-Guzman, 26-cr-130

Charge: Reentry of a Removed Alien
(8 U.S.C. § 1326(a))
Sentence: 24 months of imprisonment and **1 year of supervised release.**
Judge: Honorable Wendy B. Vitter

U.S. v. Williams, 19-cr-204

Charge: Racketeering Conspiracy; Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances; Firearms Conspiracy; Murder in Aid of Racketeering
(18 U.S.C. §§ 1962(d), 924(o), 1959; 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(C), (b)(1)(D), 846)
Sentence: **Life imprisonment** and **5 years of supervised release**.
Judge: Honorable Jane Triche Milazzo

U.S. v. Doleman, 19-cr-204

Charge: Racketeering Conspiracy; Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances; Firearms Conspiracy; Murder in Aid of Racketeering
(18 U.S.C. §§ 1962(d), 924(o), 1959; 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(C), (b)(1)(D), 846)
Sentence: **Life imprisonment** and **5 years of supervised release**.
Judge: Honorable Jane Triche Milazzo

U.S. v. Bovia, 19-cr-204

Charge: Racketeering Conspiracy; Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances; Firearms Conspiracy; Murder in Aid of Racketeering; Assault with a Dangerous Weapon in Aid of Reacketeering; Use, Carrying, and Discharge of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence and a Drug Trafficking Crime
(18 U.S.C. §§ 1962(d), 924(o), 1959; 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(C), (b)(1)(D), 846)
Sentence: **Life imprisonment, plus 120 consecutive months** and **5 years of supervised release**.
Judge: Honorable Jane Triche Milazzo

U.S. v. Doleman, 24-cr-243

Charge: Conspiracy to Distribute Marijuana; Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime; Felon in Possession of a Firearm
(21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(D); 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c)(1)(A)(i), 922(g)(1), 924(a)(8))
Sentence: **97 months of imprisonment** and **5 years of supervised release**.
Judge: Honorable Jane Triche Milazzo

CONTINUE TO PAGE 3

U.S. v. Jennings, 11-cr-170

Violation of Mandatory and Standard Conditions of Supervised Release: *Using cocaine; cocaine related criminal conduct involving possession and distribution; and failing to report law enforcement contact within 72 hours.*
Sentence: **37 months of imprisonment** and **5 years of supervised release**.
Judge: Honorable Lance M. Africk

U.S. v. Johnson, 13-cr-151

Violation of Standard Conditions of Supervised Release: *Failing to maintain contact with Probation following release from prison; failing to submit required monthly reports; and failing to report changes in employment.*
Sentence: Time served and **2 years of supervised release.**
Judge: Honorable Eldon E. Fallon

U.S. v. Morel, 15-cr-166

Violation of Mandatory Conditions of Supervised Release: *Possessing materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors, resulting in a new federal conviction and a 120-month prison sentence.*
Sentence: 24 months of imprisonment and **lifetime supervised release.**
Judge: Honorable Lance M. Africk

DYK?

This week's Case Spotlight began with a report of a stolen and altered check. **Federal financial intelligence shows how frequently mail theft becomes the foundation for broader check fraud**.

In a September 2024 analysis, the **Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) received 15,417 Bank Secrecy Act reports filed by 841 financial institutions between February 27 and August 31, 2023 related to mail theft-related check fraud incidents. Those reports identified more than $688 million in suspicious transactions, including completed and attempted transactions.** The amount represents reported suspicious activity, rather than confirmed losses.

FinCEN identified three principal methods: altering stolen checks and depositing them, using stolen checks as templates for counterfeits, and fraudulently endorsing otherwise unaltered checks. Its analysis associated these methods with approximately 44%, 26%, and 20%, respectively, of the reporting reviewed. Activity or subjects were linked to every state, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

The exposure can extend beyond the amount of the original check. FinCEN found that stolen checks could supply the banking information used to manufacture additional counterfeit checks. The FBI and Postal Inspection Service also warn that fraudsters exploit the interval between funds becoming available and the fraud being detected, withdrawing proceeds before the financial institution or customer identifies the problem.