



The J Group's EDLA SENTENCING NEWSLETTER

WEEK OF
FEB 1 TO FEB 7

FEBRUARY 11, 2026 ISSUE



Possession of Marijuana, Firearms, and more...

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

CASE SPOTLIGHT

United States v. Alexis

24-cr-144

What's the Basis?: Court documents state that Alexis was advertising his marijuana distribution activities through his Instagram stories. The documents further state that Alexis was arrested after he arrived at a co-conspirator's home (which was under surveillance) in a stolen vehicle. Alexis was apprehended after a short foot chase. When taken into possession, Alexis was found with \$2,500 in cash, and admitted to possessing a AM-15 pistol that was found in the stolen vehicle.

What's the Violation?: Mr. Alexis pled guilty to ***Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess, and Possession with the Intent to Distribute, a Mixture and Substance containing Marijuana, and Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime***, in violation of **21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(D), and 846; and 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(i)**.

What's the Punishment?: The Honorable Judge Greg G. Guidry sentenced Alexis to **61 months of imprisonment** and 3 years of supervised release.

This Week's Other Matters

U.S. v. BUEZO-ZELAYA, 25-CR-009

Charge: Re-entry of a Removed Alien

(8 U.S.C. § 1326(a))

Sentence: **TIME SERVED.**

Judge: Honorable Darrel J. Papillion

U.S. v. CASCO-LOPEZ, 20-CR-22

Charge: Re-entry of a Removed Alien

(8 U.S.C. § 1326(a))

Sentence: **21 months imprisonment** and 1 year of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Greg Gerard Guidry

U.S. v. PENA-OCHOA, 23-CR-032

Charge: Re-entry of a Removed Alien

(8 U.S.C. § 1326(a))

Sentence: **21 months imprisonment** and 1 year of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Greg Gerard Guidry

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](#)
- [21 U.S.C. § 841](#)
- [21 U.S.C. § 846](#)



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U.S. V. ROUSELL, 25-CR-181

Charge: Felon in Possession of a Firearm
(18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), 924(a)(8))

Sentence: **54 months of imprisonment** and 3 years of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Brandon S. Long

U.S. V. WILLIAMS, 24-CR-194

Charge: Possession with intent to distribute cocaine, Felon in Possession of a Firearm
(21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(C), 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(8))

Sentence: **151 months of imprisonment** and 3 years of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Lance M. Africk

U.S. V. JENKINS, 24-CR-203

Charge: Felon in Possession of a Firearm
(18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(8))

Sentence: **30 months imprisonment** and 3 years of supervised release.

Judge: Honorable Wendy B. Vitter

Did You Know?

Today's Case Spotlight highlights one of the federal government's strongest tools - the "**924(c)**" charge - **Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime**. Generally, individuals charged with a "924(c)" face a **mandatory minimum** sentence of **60 months**, which has to be served consecutively to any other sentence received. Today's case involving Mr. Alexis demonstrates the harshness of the 924(c) penalties. A sentence of 61 months for a case involving a 924(c) indicates that Mr. Alexis' drug possession of marijuana rendered a sentence of merely 1 month. His ultimate sentence, however, was much higher because of the mandatory minimum sentence associated with the 924(c).

According to the Department of Justice, during the 2024 Fiscal Year, **of the 61,678 reported federal criminal cases, 2,522 involved 924(c) convictions**. The **majority** of individuals convicted of 924(c)s **were Black (54.8%)**. Hispanics comprised of 22.9% those convicted, while White individuals accounted for 17.8% of the convictions.

The **average sentence for individuals charged with a 924(c)** (including the sentencing for any other offenses in the case) **was 150 months**.

Hebrews 13:3 - Remember the prisoners as if chained with them - those who are mistreated - since you yourselves are in the body also.

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

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