



The J Group's EDLA SENTENCING NEWSLETTER

WEEK OF
DEC 21 TO DEC 27

DECEMBER 31, 2025 ISSUE



Firearms, fentanyl, and more... see what happened this past week in the Eastern District of Louisiana

CASE SPOTLIGHT

United States v. Penn 23-cr-33

What's the Basis?: While conducting a search warrants at locations related to Penn, federal agents found a Glock 17 9mm; a Palmetto State Armory Model: PA-15; a Glock 19 9mm; a Glock 30 .45 caliber; \$1,216; 63 pills containing fentanyl; various ammunition and marijuana. Further examination by investigators revealed that the Palmetto State Armory Model: PA-15, was modified and equipped with an "Auto Sear," a devise designed to enable automatic fire, which technically converted the weapon into a machine gun. DNA analysis indicated "strong support" that Penn contributed to DNA found on many of the seized items. Penn had been previously convicted of a felony and knew he was prohibited from possessing firearms.

What's the Violation?: Penn pled guilty to **Possession with intent to distribute a quantity of marijuana and a quantity of fentanyl; Possession of a machine gun; and Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon**, in violation of **21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), (b)(1)(D); 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(o), (a)(2), (g)(1) and (a)(8)**.

What's the Punishment?: The Honorable Judge Barry W. Ashe sentenced Mr. Penn to **78 months of imprisonment**, and three years of supervised released, as to each count. Sentences to be served concurrently.

This Week's Other Matters

U.S. v. HUTCHINSON, 24-CR-225

Charge: Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl and Methamphetamine; Possession with and Intent to Distribute Fentanyl and Methamphetamine; and Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime
(21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B); and 846; 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(i))

Sentence: **180 months of imprisonment**, consisting of 120 months for the narcotic charges, to be served consecutively with 60 months for the firearm charge.

Judge: Honorable Judge Barry W. Ashe

WHAT'S THAT STATUTE? CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE VIOLATIONS INCLUDED IN THIS WEEKS' EDITION

- [18 U.S.C. § 922](#)
- [21 U.S.C. § 841](#)



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650 Poydras Street, Suite 2430
New Orleans, LA 70130
504-285-3872