



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber  
Western District of Kentucky

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CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN  
PHONE: (502) 582-5911  
FAX: (502) 582-5097

## PADUCAH MEN INDICTED IN FEDERAL COURT

*- Have prior drug trafficking convictions*

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Paducah returned an indictment on October 9, 2007 against **James Fitzgerald Watson**, age 43, of 3510 Maxon Road, Paducah, **Peter E. Gray**, age 51 also of 3510 Maxon Road, Paducah, and **Lawrence Murff**, age 52, of 612 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Paducah, in McCracken County on charges of conspiring to possess with intent to distribute crack-cocaine, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

The Indictment alleges that between February 2006 and April 26, 2007, Watson, Gray and Murff conspired with each other and persons known and unknown to the grand jury to possess with the intent to distribute more than 5 grams of crack-cocaine in McCracken County, Kentucky. In addition, the Indictment charges that on September 1, 2006, Watson and Gray, each aiding and abetting the other, possessed with intent to distribute more than 5 grams of crack-cocaine. The crack-cocaine recovered in this matter has a street value of over \$2,100. The Indictment also seeks the forfeiture of any proceeds or property gained from the commission of the drug trafficking offenses and lists Watson's personal property that was seized during a search warrant. The property listed for forfeiture has an estimated total value of \$100,000 and includes but is not limited to Watson's jewelry, tools, appliances, furniture, and two vehicles.

Usually, in the event of a conviction, the minimum potential penalty would be five years imprisonment with a maximum potential penalty of 40 years, a \$2,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of at least four years. However, because both Watson and Gray have a prior state court conviction for trafficking in a controlled substance and because Murff has a prior state court conviction for possession of a controlled substance, the minimum penalties can be doubled in federal court. Therefore in the event of a conviction, Watson, Gray and Murff are each facing a mandatory minimum penalty of ten years imprisonment, a \$4,000,000 fine and supervised release for a period of at least eight years following incarceration.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michele Thielhorn. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Paducah Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

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**The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.**

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