



U. S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Middle District of Georgia

Post Office Box 1702  
Macon, Georgia 31202

Phone: 478-752-3511  
Fax: 478-621-2604

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 8, 2006

CONTACT: SUE McKINNEY  
(478) 621-2602

**VERDICT RETURNED**

**United States v. W. Dexter Harrison, Martin L. Harrell and Charles L. Harrell**

Acting United States Attorney G.F. Peterman, III, Middle District of Georgia, Thomasville Division, announced the return of the verdict after a two week trial in the criminal case of **United States v. W. Dexter Harrison, Martin L. Harrell and Charles L. Harrell**. The charges in this trial all stem from the arson of the Ramada Limited, Donalsonville, Georgia, which is owned by Defendant Dexter Harrison. The arson occurred on January 7, 2002. The verdict is as follows:

**Count Five** - 18 U.S.C. § 371 i/c/w 844(i) and 1341 - W. Dexter Harrison and Martin L. Harrell convicted of conspiracy to commit arson and mail fraud. (Maximum possible sentence not more than 5 years imprisonment.)

**Count Six** - 18 U.S.C. § 1341 - W. Dexter Harrison convicted of mail fraud. (Maximum possible sentence not more than 20 years imprisonment.)

**Count Seven** - 18 U.S.C. § 844(i) and §2 - W. Dexter Harrison and Martin L. Harrell convicted of arson. (Mandatory minimum of 5 to 7 years imprisonment with possible maximum of 40 years imprisonment.)

**Count Eight and Count Nine** - 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)(1) - Martin L. Harrell acquitted of witness tampering.

**Count Ten** - 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)(1) - Martin L. Harrell convicted of witness tampering. (Maximum possible sentence 10 years imprisonment.)

**Count Twelve** - 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)(3) - Martin L. Harrell convicted of misleading statements. (Maximum possible sentence 10 years imprisonment.)

**Count Thirteen** - 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)(3) - W. Dexter Harrison convicted of misleading statements. (Maximum possible sentence 10 years imprisonment.)

Defendant Charles L. Harrell was acquitted of witness tampering under 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)(3) as charged in **Count Four** of the Indictment.

Defendant Dexter Harrison was immediately taken into custody following a motion by the government. Sentencing is expected in approximately two months, with the exact date to be determined by the Court.

Defendants Martin Harrell and Charles Harrell still face trial on the following counts of the Indictment:

**Count One** - Hobbs Act Conspiracy

**Count Two** - Hobbs Act Violation

**Count Three** - Martin Harrell - Interstate Travel in Aid of Racketeering

**Count Eleven** - Martin Harrell - Hobbs Act Violation

In summation Defendant W. Dexter Harrison faces a possible total of 75 years imprisonment and Defendant Martin L. Harrell faces a possible total of 65 years imprisonment.

The case was investigated by the Bureau Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Jim Crane and Leah McEwen.

Questions for AUSA Crane and AUSA McEwen concerning this case should be directed to Sue McKinney, Public Affairs Specialist, United States Attorney's Office, at (478) 621-2602.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE



G.F. PETERMAN, III  
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY