



CONTACT NUMBER: 815-987-4444

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**ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; PHILLIP J. NICOLOSI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; and CHET EPPERSON, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

Last Friday, October 26, 2007, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced **VICTOR A. DEAN**, 41, formerly of Rockford, Illinois, to ten years in federal prison for being a felon in possession of firearms. Dean, who had six prior felony convictions, was also ordered to serve 3 years of supervised release following his release from prison, and ordered to pay a \$300 fine and a \$100 special assessment.

As part of his plea agreement which was entered on August 3, 2007, Dean admitted that on June 6, 2006, he purchased three firearms from Deanna Adams and Brian Sawtelle for \$75.00. Adams and Sawtelle, along with Steven Klikno, had previously stolen the three firearms sold to Dean, along with six other firearms, during a residential burglary committed the day before on Horton Street in Rockford. At the time that Dean purchased the firearms, he also had in his possession a quantity of heroin, which he was packaging for sale.

Sawtelle, Klikno, and Adams, along with Karl J. Daniels, have all been sentenced for their roles in the crimes. On September 7, 2007, **Klikno**, 38, formerly of Rockford, a five-time felon who qualified as an "Armed Career Criminal" under federal law, was sentenced to 15 years and 8 months in federal prison without parole for the offense of being a felon in possession of firearms. Klikno was also ordered to serve a 5 year period of supervised release following his release from prison, and ordered to pay a \$400 fine and a \$100 special assessment. On August 31, 2007, **Sawtelle**, 27, formerly of Rockford, a six-time felon who also qualified as an "Armed Career Criminal," was sentenced to 11 years and 9 months in federal prison without parole for the offense of being a felon in possession of firearms, and to a 5 year period of supervised release following his release from prison, and was ordered to pay a \$200 fine and a \$100 special assessment. On May 1, 2007, **Adams**, 36 and formerly of Rockford, was sentenced to 26 months in federal prison without parole for the

offense of theft of firearms, and to a 3 year period of supervised release following her release from prison, and was ordered to pay a \$100 fine and a \$100 special assessment. Also on September 7, **Daniels**, 50 and formerly of Rockford, was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison without parole for the offense of receipt of stolen firearms, and a 3 year period of supervised release following his release from prison, and was ordered to pay a \$100 fine and a \$100 special assessment.

First charged by the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office under state law, these defendants were transferred to federal court where they were charged under tough federal firearms laws as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every defendant charged in state court for an offense involving a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at www.psn.gov.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Rockford Police Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Michael F. Iasparro.

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