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Pennsylvania Man Who Committed Spree of Armed Takeover Bank Robberies Sentenced to 319 Months in Prison

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CAMDEN, N.J. – Joseph McAdams, 54, of Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, was sentenced late yesterday to 319 months in prison for a string of 10 bank robberies he committed in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

United States District Judge Jerome B. Simandle imposed the sentence in Camden federal court. McAdams pleaded guilty on September 25, 2009, to 10 counts of armed bank robbery related to crimes he committed between November 2004 and October 2008, and one count of the use of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence. In sentencing McAdams, the Court also took into consideration four additional armed bank robberies he committed between September 2001 and January 2004, which he admitted at the time of his plea but were barred from prosecution by the applicable statute of limitations.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

McAdams admitted that, beginning in September 2001 and continuing until his arrest, he used the same modus operandi to rob 14 banks in New Jersey and Pennsylvania of cash totaling approximately \$939,240. McAdams typically would enter a targeted bank around 6:00 p.m., which led him to be referred to in the press as the “Closing Time Bandit.” Upon entering the bank, McAdams displayed a silver handgun and then forced bank employees at gunpoint into the bank’s vault, where he compelled them to give him the bank’s U.S. currency.

McAdams pleaded guilty to bank robbery charges for committing or attempting the following armed bank robberies:

Date	Bank	Amount Stolen
Nov. 12, 2004	Wachovia Bank, Blooming Grove, Pa.	\$128,631
Nov. 4, 2005	Pennstar Bank, Lake Ariel, Pa.	\$28,303
Jan. 13, 2006	Wayne Bank, Lords Valley, Pa.	\$90,639
Jan. 26, 2007	Pennstar Bank, Newfoundland, Pa.	\$63,172
Feb. 16, 2007	Bank of New York, Roseland, N.J.	\$69,812
Nov. 8, 2007	PNC Bank, Colts Neck, N.J.	--
Nov. 29, 2007	Union Center National Bank, Hanover, N.J.	\$36,414

Jan. 11, 2008	Kearny Federal Savings Bank, Franklin Lakes, N.J.	\$70,454
Jan. 25, 2008	Bank of America in Lebanon, N.J.	\$19,817
Oct. 9, 2008	Investor's Savings Bank in Whitehouse Station, N.J.	\$135,156

McAdams further admitted that he committed the following four armed bank robberies, which could not be prosecuted due to the applicable statute of limitations :

Date	Bank	Amount Stolen
Sept. 13, 2001	First Community National Bank, Scranton, Pa.	\$5,410
Feb. 27, 2003	Pennstar Bank, Scranton, Pa.	\$130,052
Dec. 26, 2003	Community Bank & Trust, Factoryville, Pa.	\$60,000
Jan. 16, 2004	Pennstar Bank, Lenox, Pa.	\$63,172

In determining McAdams' sentence, Judge Simandle observed that the "seriousness of the offenses cannot be understated," and noted that, in addition to the banks, approximately 30 individual bank employees had been victimized by McAdams. Judge Simandle said that McAdams "was in the banks for five minutes, yet in those five minutes, he changed the lives of the tellers who were in the bank," and later added, "They thought they were going to die. They were told that if they did not cooperate they would be killed."

Because McAdams had committed prior armed bank robberies, Judge Simandle found that McAdams was a "career offender" and imposed a sentence at the height of the applicable U.S. Sentencing Guidelines range of 188-235 months with respect to the 10 armed bank robberies on which he was convicted. Judge Simandle concluded that a 235-month term of incarceration was appropriate, among other reasons, because McAdams committed armed takeover robberies, in which he commandeered bank employees and forced them into protected areas of the banks, including bank vaults. Judge Simandle determined that such armed "takeover" robberies involve a substantially heightened degree of violence and risk of injury than do armed bank robberies in which a demand note is used.

Judge Simandle also sentenced McAdams to an additional 84 months on the count of use of a

firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, for a total of 319 months, or more than 26 years in prison. Judge Simandle concluded that McAdams “deserves every day of his sentence.”

U.S. Attorney Fishman thanked Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Newark and Philadelphia Divisions, under the direction of Special Agents in Charge Michael B. Ward and Janice K. Fedarcyk, respectively, as well as the Pennsylvania State Police, under the direction of Col. Frank E. Pawlowski, Commissioner; the Readington, N.J. Police Department, under the direction of Chief Sebastian Donaruma, the Hunterdon, N.J. County Prosecutor’s Office, under Prosecutor J. Patrick Barnes, and the local police officials in the affected jurisdictions who assisted in the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony J. Mahajan of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: Linda Foster, Esq., Federal Public Defender’s Office