



Department of Justice

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SECOND COLUMBUS ATTORNEY PLEADS GUILTY TO INVOLVEMENT IN LAUNDERING DRUG MONEY

COLUMBUS –Columbus attorney, Charles W. McGowan, 41, pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to helping convicted marijuana kingpin Donald Dailey launder proceeds from the drug trafficking operation in 2006 and 2007.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Jose A. Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, (IRS) and Anthony C. Marotta, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration; announced the plea entered today before U.S. District Judge Michael H. Watson. Judge Watson will set a date for sentencing.

McGowan pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment, and one count of failing to report to the U.S. Treasury Department a cash transaction of more than \$10,000, which is punishable by up to five years imprisonment.

Columbus attorney Kyle Hunter, 40, pleaded guilty on January 6, 2010 to one count of failing to report a cash transaction of more than \$10,000. Hunter also agreed to forfeit a piece of real estate he bought with a portion of the money.

According to court documents, McGowan and Hunter began representing various members of the Donald Dailey drug trafficking organization in 2002. On two separate occasions in 2006, Dailey gave McGowan between \$60,000 and \$80,000 in cash and instructed McGowan to secure legal representation for members of Dailey's organization who had been arrested in Missouri and Kansas while transporting marijuana from Arizona to Columbus.

Hunter received approximately \$100,000 in cash from Dailey associate Leonard Barnhouse in 2007 along with instructions that Hunter was to use the money to provide legal representation for Barnhouse and his associates. Hunter admitted to using a portion of the money for personal expenses without Barnhouse's approval.

Each man admitted that they knew the money represented proceeds from marijuana trafficking.

Dailey pleaded guilty on March 17, 2009 to conspiracy, drug, firearm and tax crimes and was sentenced on October 27, 2009 to 20 years imprisonment. Dailey's organization grossed more than \$10 million between March 2007 and March 2008. Sixteen other people involved in the organization pleaded guilty. Ten have been sentenced so far and received sentences ranging from 1 day to 20 years.

Stewart commended the cooperative investigation by IRS and DEA agents, and Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeVillers, who is prosecuting the case.

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