



# Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney  
Western District of Wisconsin

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## CHICAGO MAN CHARGED WITH DRUG CONSPIRACY IN WAUSAU AREA

Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced today the unsealing of an indictment charging Lawrence Williams, 34, Chicago, with conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and cocaine in the Wausau, Wis. area. Williams was arrested in Chicago on March 17, 2010, made his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Madison today and was ordered detained pending trial.

The indictment charges that Williams conspired with Johnny Bruce Mathews to distribute cocaine base and cocaine from March 2007 to April 2008. The indictment alleges that Williams conspired to distribute in excess of 50 grams of cocaine base and 500 grams of cocaine. If convicted, Williams faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison, and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

On January 13, 2009, Williams' alleged co-conspirator, Johnny Bruce Mathews, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Madison to possessing more than 50 grams of cocaine base with intent to distribute in the Wausau area. Mathews was sentenced on April 6, 2009, to 20 years in prison without parole, to be followed by a 10-year term of supervised release.

Williams is currently awaiting trial in U.S. District Court in Buffalo, N.Y., on charges of conspiracy to distribute in excess of five kilograms of cocaine from Chicago to Buffalo. If convicted on those charges, Williams faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in federal prison, and a maximum penalty of life.

The charges against Williams are the result of an investigation conducted by the Marathon County Special Investigation Unit which is comprised of officers from the Marathon County Sheriff's Department, Wausau Police Department, and Everest Metro Police Department.

The jury trial for Williams is scheduled to begin July 26, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in U.S.

District Court in Madison, before U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb.

The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel J. Graber.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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