



# Department of Justice

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## MERRILL MAN SENTENCED ON METHAMPHETAMINE CHARGE

### *David Bienfang is Seventh Person Sentenced in Federal Court for Manufacturing Methamphetamine in Lincoln County*

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that David Bienfang, 39, Merrill, Wis., was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Conley to 54 months in prison, to be followed by a three-year period of supervised release, for conspiring to possess pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine from March 2009 to January 2010. He was also ordered to pay \$3,376 in restitution for clean-up costs of toxic materials used to manufacture methamphetamine at a property in Lincoln County. Bienfang pleaded guilty to this charge on November 4, 2010.

Bienfang's co-conspirators Hal D. "Casey" Mulford and Christopher Schmeltzer are scheduled for sentencing later this month. Mulford and Schmeltzer both also face maximum penalties of 20 years in prison. Federal prison sentences are served without the possibility of parole.

The prosecutions of Bienfang was the result of an extensive and ongoing investigation conducted by the Merrill Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. To date, the cooperative state, local and federal investigation has resulted in the conviction of nine people involved in five separate methamphetamine cooking operations during 2009. Set forth below are the defendants who have previously been convicted and sentenced in federal court:

Name	Crime of Conviction	Sentence Imposed
Shawn Ably	conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine	6 years
Jake Barttelt	manufacture of methamphetamine	5 ½ years

Name	Crime of Conviction	Sentence Imposed
Daniel Bohman	manufacture of methamphetamine	4 years
Joshua Graham	conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine	10 years
Chuck Groff	conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine	12 years
Paul Rasmussen	attempted manufacture of methamphetamine	5 years

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson is handling the prosecution of these cases.

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