

**U.S. v Strachil Christov et. al.** CR-S-90-206-LDG (LRL) In 1990, Tom prosecuted several street level cocaine dealers and Christov, their supplier, who continued to run the operation from jail. Tom prosecuted him under CCE statute. Tom subsequently went up the chain and prosecuted his suppliers, and ultimately their Mexican source, who was convicted after trial *in U.S. v. Sergio Lopez* , 919 F.Supp. 347 (9th Cir.1996) (*published opinion*)

**U.S. v Gregory Richard Barker** 988 F2d 77 (9th Cir.1993 ) (*published opinion*)

In 1991, Tom convicted a suspected serial killer, apprehended via "Unsolved Mysteries" broadcast, after trial for three bank robberies committed in Las Vegas eight years earlier while a fugitive on murder charge. Defendant, a decorated former U.S. Army Captain and Vietnam veteran, subsequently pled guilty to the Virginia murder featured on the television show. He remains a key suspect in the murder of an FBI agent's daughter.

**U.S. v Bautista-Avila et. al.** 6 F3d 1360 (9th Cir.1993) (*published opinion*) In 1992, Tom convicted three defendants, after trial, of distribution of a 24 kilogram sample of cocaine, a prelude to a planned 100 kilogram delivery. The Ninth Circuit reversed convictions of two defendants for insufficient evidence.

**U.S. v Edmond et. al.** 43 F3d 472 (9th Cir. 1994) (*published opinion*) In 1992, Tom tried and convicted four Los Angeles Crip gang members of Conspiracy, Armed Bank Robbery, and Use of Firearms in the first of what would become a string of violent gang takeover robberies perpetrated in Las Vegas over a 2 year period. The court granted several upward departure motions, and sentences of up to thirty years were imposed.

**U.S. v Jerry Dean Ashburn and Allen Davis** CR-S-93-015-PMP(LRL) In 1993, Tom prosecuted two defendants for conspiracy to commit murder for hire. Ashburn had previously shot the victim and another individual, who was killed, then dumped them in a farmhouse and set fire to it. After being convicted of the crimes, Ashburn contacted Davis, who also hated the victim-survivor, from prison. They hired an undercover FBI agent to do the "hit". Both pled guilty on the morning of trial. Ashburn then claimed to be a known serial killer. FBI profilers from Quantico got involved, concluded he was a sociopath but not the serial killer he claimed to be. Ironically, the retired FBI agent who posed as the "hit man" was subsequently convicted of beating his son's girlfriend to death with two claw hammers.

**U.S. v Koshro Dowlatshahi** CR-S-93-260-LDG(LRL) In 1993, Tom prosecuted a con man who persuaded victims he could replicate dollar bills they would provide. Scam involved altering a bill so it would appear to be a replication of another. Defendant pled to money laundering in purchase of a Rolls Royce with proceeds, he forfeited the Rolls, a Mercedes, and a Toyota Forerunner. Defendant's neighbor was subsequently murdered in what was believed to be a case of mistaken identity.

**U.S. v Robert Lindsey et. al.** CR-S-94-039-PMP(LRL) In 1994, Tom prosecuted Lindsey and two others in a massive Arizona to Ohio marijuana distribution network and related money laundering. All three received sentences over the ten year mandatory minimums. Tom also prosecuted the defendant's father and an associate, an Ohio businessman, for money laundering. Forfeitures totaled approximately \$1 million.

**U.S. v Jacob Sherwood and Ray Marion Cuddy** 98 F3d 402 (9th Cir. 1996), 147 F3d 111 (9th Cir, 1998) (*published opinions*) In 1994, Tom tried two of the men who extorted \$1.45 million from the Mirage Hotel and Casino in 1993 by kidnapping the daughter of Mirage Resorts CEO Steve Wynn. A third defendant cooperated with the Government. The defendants were convicted of Conspiracy, Hobbs Act, Use of Firearms, and Money Laundering offenses, and received sentences of 19 and 24 years respectively. Without doubt, this was one of the biggest trials in Las Vegas history and Tom was featured

**U.S. v Govan et. al.** 152 F3d 1088 (9th Cir. 1998) (*published opinion*) Tom prosecuted five Los Angeles Crips, including a juvenile transferred to District Court, for the takeover robbery of Harrah's Hotel and Casino, video of which was shown extensively on national media. The violent 1994 crime was one of many with same modus operandi which occurred over a two year period. Tom subsequently launched an extensive investigation to ascertain possibility of common leader/organizers. Tom prosecuted several defendants for perjury and false statements; turned insiders; coordinated FBI, IRS and ATF with Southern California law enforcement agencies. Tom and crew ultimately dismantled group; provided Louisiana authorities with evidence which resulted in a life sentence for one of leaders in a drug case; another was killed when his girlfriend, charged with perjury, agreed to cooperate; two proceeded to trial - Melvin Foster pled the second day of trial; Chet Govan was convicted after trial and received 22 year sentence. No further gang takeovers for several years, the local press credited U.S. Attorney's Office with practically saving the gaming industry. Tom was nominated for a US DOJ Director's Award.

**U.S. v Rick Lee Archer and Gene DiUlio** CR-93-259-LDG. The Defendants, members of Aryan Brotherhood, were the last prisoners to escape from a federal maximum security facility (Lompoc, CA). They then came to Las Vegas and committed bank robbery and several car jackings. While the case was pending, their escape plans were uncovered. They were then moved to the old Supermax (Marion, Ill.) During a routine x-ray at Marion they discovered 2 shivs and a handcuff key in Archer's rectum. When returned to Las Vegas for trial, they posed such a high security risk that the US Marshal's Service refused to bring them from the Clark County Detention Center to the federal courthouse, so pre-trial hearings were conducted in a makeshift courtroom in the jail. Both pled on the morning of trial. Archer was sentenced to 188 months, DiUlio to 240 months. Archer subsequently received an additional 8 years for attacking a guard - at the Lewisburg Supermax.

**U.S. v Joseph Bailie and Ellis Hurst** CR-N-96-1-HDM Tom conducted an investigation of the attempted bombing of the IRS offices in Reno with a fertilizer bomb. Tom charged two subjects with perjury and false statements (convicted one after trial, the other was convicted after trial by another AUSA). Tom indicted Bailie and Hurst for Conspiracy, Attempted Arson by Explosives, Use of Firearm (explosive - 30 year mandatory sentence). Tom debriefed and pled Hurst pursuant to a cooperation agreement. Bailie was convicted after trial by another AUSA . This case was personally monitored by Attorney General Reno.

**U.S v Frank Darwin Alexander** CR-S-99-138-DWH(RJJ) Tom prosecuted a Louisiana defendant who mailed pipe bombs to: 1) Texas televangelist John Hagee in San Antonio, 2) to President Clinton at the White House, and 3) to the ATF offices in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Hagee bomb detonated at a U.S. Post Office bulk mail center in Dallas; the Clinton bomb detonated in a Post Office tractor trailer in Washington D.C.; the ATF bomb was recovered at a Las Vegas Greyhound Bus terminal, undetonated. The defendant pled guilty to several destructive device and related counts and received a life sentence.

**U.S. v Andre Lavon Taylor** 239 F3d 994 (9th Cir, 2000) (*published opinion*) At the request of Las Vegas police, Tom prosecuted a pimp, identified by the LVPD as a major interstate panderer of juveniles, for Mann Act and money laundering violations. Defendant was featured in the Hughes Brothers (Menace to Society, Dead Presidents, etc.) film "American Pimp" – Tom subpoenaed raw film footage and used it at trial. Tom called a hostile Allen Hughes as a Government witness and impeached him with prior Grand Jury testimony. Tom also called Dr. Lois Lee, founder of Children of the Night. The published opinion created a

highly favorable new 9th Circuit precedent re: elements of Mann Act and using government experts on the subject of pimp / prostitute relationship.

**U.S v Ricardo Murillo et. al.** 288 F3d 1126 (9th Cir, 2002) (*published opinion*). In 2000, Tom prosecuted Christopher Moseley, husband of DuPont heiress Lisa Dean Moseley, and others for Murder for Hire. Moseley traveled from Delaware estate to Las Vegas and recruited Diana Hironaga, a former stripper and porn star, to kill the girlfriend of Lisa Dean Moseley's son. Hironaga in turn recruited Ricardo Murillo, her former boyfriend. The victim was lured to a Strip motel, brutally murdered, and her body secreted in an air conditioning duct. Moseley and Hironaga pled guilty, cooperated with the government and testified at Murillo's trial. He was convicted and received a life sentence. Tom's prosecution was praised by author **Dominick Dunne**, who covered the trial, and featured in his book "Justice" and several television programs. Tom was nominated for a Director's Award .

**U.S v Jerald Burgess** CR-S- 00-379-KJD(LRL) Tom re-opened a 20 year old investigation of a 6 year old boy's disappearance and presumed murder, which paralleled the Adam Walsh case in many respects. During the investigation, a confidential informant gleaned some information about the crime from Burgess, the prime suspect (who had been acquitted of state kidnapping charges years earlier) but also purchased firearms, ammunition and a silencer from him in an elaborate sting in which he was led to believe the weapons were to be used in a murder. Burgess was tried in 2001, convicted of the foregoing offenses and sentenced to 11 years.

## Operation garlic press

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**United States Attorney Melinda Haag  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FORTY-FIFTH DEFENDANT IN OPERATION GARLIC PRESS SENTENCED**

*Sentencing Concludes Prosecutions of Gilroy Store-Front Operations Charged in Federal Court*

SAN JOSE – Zanaida Perales, one of 45 defendants charged federally in Operation Garlic Press, a multi-agency law enforcement initiative that was conducted in Gilroy, California in October 2011, was sentenced yesterday in federal court, United States Attorney Melinda Haag announced.

The sentence was handed down by The Honorable D. Lowell Jensen, United States District Court Judge, in San Jose. Perales pleaded guilty on August 1, 2013, to using an interstate facility in furtherance of a drug felony, in violation of 21 U.S.C. Section 843(b). She was sentenced to 36 months in prison to be followed by one year of supervised release.

Another Garlic Press defendant, Adolpho Cornejo Vasquez, absconded after receiving pretrial release, and remains a fugitive. He is charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, and distribution of methamphetamine. A warrant has issued for his arrest in criminal case number CR 11-00658 LHK. Anyone with information on his whereabouts should contact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) at (408) 882-5200 or the Gilroy Police Department at (408) 846-0300.

In March, 2010, the ATF began an undercover operation with the Gilroy Police Department and the California Highway Patrol. That operation targeted individuals, including gang members, who commit violent criminal acts. The investigation focused on individuals operating in the California counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito. Prosecutors from the United States Attorney's Office and the Santa Clara District Attorney's Office, working together, charged 118 defendants. The federal operation's primary objective targeted subjects who traffic in firearms and narcotics, primarily methamphetamine, while the state focused on stolen vehicles stolen or were the subject of insurance fraud. Among the items seized were 86 vehicles, 52 firearms (including several sawed off shotguns, stolen firearms, and firearms with obliterated serial numbers) and methamphetamine, much of which was extremely pure (some 100%), with a street value of more than \$100,000.

Besides Perales, 44 other federal defendants have been convicted and sentenced as detailed below. For reference, Title 21 offenses address distribution and/or possession with the intent to distribute controlled substances (in these cases methamphetamine); Title 18 and Title 26 offenses address illegal possession and/or sale of firearms.

1. **Arianna Baca** pled guilty on July 26, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. Baca was sentenced November 1, 2012, to 78 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release
2. **Izaeus Banda** pled guilty on March 12, 2012, to violating 21 USC 841. Banda was sentenced on June 4, 2012, to 60 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
3. **Scott Burns** pled guilty on March 12, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1), 26 USC 5861, and 21 USC 841. Burns was sentenced on June 4, 2012, to 100 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
4. **Frank Cardenas** pled guilty on April 23, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1) and 21 USC 841. Cardenas was sentenced on July 9, 2012, to 60 months in prison to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
5. **Arturo Cervantes** pled guilty on April 2, 2012, to violations of 26 USC 5861 and 21 USC 841. Cervantes was sentenced on August 6, 2012, to 60 months in prison to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
6. **Christina Chavez**, pled guilty on Aug 6, 2012, to violating 21 USC 844(a). Chavez was sentenced on November 5, 2012, to 24 months in prison to be followed by 12 months of supervised release.
7. **Yvonne Chavez** pled guilty on July 9, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. Chavez was sentenced on February 25, 2013, to 96 months in prison to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
8. **Juan Chavez-Ornelas** pled guilty on March 5, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846, and 8 USC 1326. Chavez-Ornelas was sentenced on August 6, 2012 to 87 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
9. **Rodolfo Contreras** pled guilty on March 14, 2012, to violating 21 USC 841. Contreras was sentenced on May 30, 2012, to 60 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.

10. **Melissa Duarte** pled guilty on July 19, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. Duarte was sentenced on February 14, 2013 to 74 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
11. **Dagoberto Duran** pled guilty on March 22, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. Duran was sentenced on August 9, 2012 to 72 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
12. **Desiree Flores** pled guilty on June 28, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. Flores was sentenced on November 15, 2012, to 60 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
13. **Joshua Flores** pled guilty on March 7, 2012, to violating 21 USC 841. He was sentenced on May 23, 2012, to 180 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.
14. **Raymond Gallegos** pled guilty on Oct. 1, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841; and 846. He was sentenced on February 23, 2012, to 100 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.
15. **Adrian Gamino** pled guilty on Dec. 21, 2011, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on March 7, 2012, to 240 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.
16. **Lorenzo Garcia** pled guilty on April 18, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on June 5, 2013, to 120 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
17. **Jose Gonzalez** pled guilty on Aug. 29, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1) and 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on January 23, 2013, to 80 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
18. **Miguel Gonzalez** pled guilty on December 21, 2011, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on March 7, 2012 to 240 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.
19. **Gustavo Hernandez** pled guilty on May 14, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on Sept. 10, 2012 to 60 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
20. **Maria Hernandez** pled guilty on October 31, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. She was sentenced on March 20, 2013, to 60 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.

21. **Simon Hernandez** pled guilty on May 21, 2012, to violating 21 USC 841. He was sentenced on Aug 6, 2012, to 84 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.
22. **Frank Herrera** pled guilty on April 2, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1) and 922(k). He was sentenced on June 18, 2012, to 57 months in prison, to be followed by 36 months of supervised release.
23. **Henry Jones** pled guilty on March 5, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1) and 922(k). He was sentenced on May 21, 2012, to 57 months in prison, to be followed by 36 months of supervised release.
24. **Ricardo Landecho** pled guilty on Dec. 3, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on April 18, 2013, to 100 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
25. **Frank Machado** pled guilty on Jan. 19, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on March 22, 2012 to 60 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
26. **Diana Mayoral** pled guilty on May 10, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. She was sentenced on November 29, 2012 to 6 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
27. **Rosa Martinez** pled guilty of June 7, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. She was sentenced on November 15, 2012, to 70 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
28. **Joshua Moore** pled guilty on April 19, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 21 USC 846. He was sentenced on Nov. 29, 2012 to 60 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
29. **Addel Montero** pled guilty on June 18, 2012, to violating of 21 USC 841 and was sentenced on October 1, 2012, to 72 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
30. **Hugo Mora** pled guilty on July 11, 2012, to violating of 21 USC 841. He was sentenced on September 26, 2012, to 68 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
31. **KC Pries** pled guilty on March 12, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1) and 26 USC 5861. Pries was sentenced in June 4, 2012 to 63 months in prison, to be followed by 36 months of supervised release.
32. **Enrique Quintero** pled guilty on July 9, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on October 15, 2012, to 240 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.



33. **Rigoberto Ramirez** pled guilty on July 16, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1) and 21 USC 841. He was sentenced on October 22, 2012 to 60 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.
34. **Robert Reddick** pled guilty on Feb. 23, 2012, to violating 18 USC 922(g)(1). He was sentenced on June 7, 2012, to 9 months in prison, to be followed by 24 months of supervised release.
35. **Cala Remick** pled guilty on July 12, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. She was sentenced on December 12, 2012, to 30 months in prison, to be followed by 36 months of supervised release.
36. **Everardo Robles** pled guilty on February 16, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1) and 21 USC 846. He was sentenced on May 3, 2012, to 108 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.
37. **Jose Romero** pled guilty on July 26, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1), 26 USC 5861(d) and 21 USC 841. He was sentenced on November 5, 2012, to 84 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.
38. **Michael Ruelas** pled guilty on April 18, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1) and 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on April 17, 2013, to 90 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
39. **David Sainz** pled guilty on July 26, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on November 5, 2012, to 188 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release.
40. **Jimmy Sandoval** pled guilty on March 1, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on May 31, 2012, to 70 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
41. **Leonardo Silga** pled guilty on March 19, 2012, to violations of 18 USC 922(g)(1) and 21 USC 846. He was sentenced on October 1, 2012, to 240 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.
42. **Lilia Valderrama** pled guilty on December 21, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846, and 18 USC 922(g)(1). She was sentenced on March 13, 2013, to 68 months in prison, to be followed by 48 months of supervised release.
43. **Paul Zabala** pled guilty on March 29, 2012, to violations of 21 USC 841 and 846. He was sentenced on July 12, 2012, to 180 months in prison, to be followed by 120 months of supervised release.

44. **Ruben Macias Chavez** convicted of 18 USC 922(g). He was sentenced on April 8, 2013, to 12 months in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

Please note: Any sentence following conviction is imposed by the court after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence, 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

Thomas O'Connell and Daniel Kaleba are the Assistant U.S. Attorneys prosecuting the cases with the assistance of Tracey Andersen and Nina Williams. The prosecution results from a one and one-half year investigation by ATF and the Gilroy Police Department. Besides the ATF and the Gilroy Police Department, the following agencies provided support to this investigation: the California Highway Patrol; Salinas Police Department; Morgan Hill Police Department; Monterey County Sheriff's Office; auto theft task forces from Monterey County, Santa Cruz County and Santa Clara County; the National Insurance Crime Bureau; the Western States Information Network; the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task force; the United States Marshal's Service; and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

#### **Further Information:**

Case #: CR-11-00894 DLJ

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the U.S. Attorney's Office at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/can](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/can).

Electronic court filings and further procedural and docket information are available at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>.

Judges' calendars with schedules for upcoming court hearings can be viewed on the court's website at [www.cand.uscourts.gov](http://www.cand.uscourts.gov).

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