



Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas

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RODERICK FOUNTAIN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON

HOUSTON, TX – Roderick Terrell Fountain was sentenced to fifteen years in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm, United States Attorney Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr. announced today.

At a hearing held this afternoon, Judge Nancy Atlas sentenced Fountain, who has been in federal custody since April 21, 2006, to a 180 month term of imprisonment. Judge Atlas held that the Armed Career Criminal Act, which provides a mandatory minimum sentence of fifteen years for individuals who possess firearms after having been convicted of three felonies that are either violent felonies or serious drug offenses, applied to Fountain because of his 1992 Louisiana conviction for possession with intent to distribute cocaine, his 1994 Louisiana robbery conviction, and his 1997 California robbery conviction. Judge Atlas also sentenced Fountain to five years supervised release after his prison term is completed.

The federal firearm conviction against Fountain arose from law enforcement discovery of a loaded Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun during an April 11, 2006 search of Fountain's apartment at 1251 Wilcrest in Houston. After a Houston Police Department (HPD) officer discovered the shotgun, Fountain's wife informed the officer that the shotgun belonged to Roderick Fountain. Because Fountain is a convicted felon, federal law prohibits him from possessing a firearm.

The federal prosecution is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a Department of Justice gun violence reduction initiative, which partners federal,

state and local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute those who illegally possess or use firearms and ammunition. As part of its prosecutorial efforts, the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas has partnered with local District Attorneys in the area to ensure that firearm-related cases are reviewed and prosecuted in the forum where the offender will receive the stiffest sentence allowed by law. The Southern District has primarily concentrated its resources on prosecuting convicted felons who possess firearms, illegal aliens in possession of firearms, individuals who traffic firearms, and those individuals who carry or use firearms in relation to drug crimes or crimes of violence.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Houston Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the Fountain firearms case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gregg Costa.

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