



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FAIRBANKS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DRUG AND FIREARMS CHARGES

Fairbanks, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on February 16, 2007, after deliberating five hours, a jury of eight women and four men found Robert Barondeau Sanderson, of Fairbanks, Alaska, guilty of one count of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, two counts of distribution of methamphetamine, and one count to being a felon in possession of firearms.

Sanderson, age 42, of 872 Boughton Court, was tried before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline in Fairbanks.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Bryan Schroder, who prosecuted the case, the evidence presented at trial established that Sanderson sold methamphetamine at his home on two occasions and that he possessed over one pound of methamphetamine when law enforcement officers searched his home, pursuant to a search warrant, on August 15, 2006. Also, during the search, the officers found numerous firearms. Sanderson is prohibited from owning firearms due to a previous felony conviction, which was also related to methamphetamine.

Judge Beistline scheduled sentencing for May 1, 2007 at 9:00 am. The maximum penalties provide for a sentence of up to life in prison, a fine of \$8,000,000, or both. There is a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in prison under federal law. The actual sentence imposed by the court will be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the criminal history of the defendant.

Pending sentencing, the court ordered that Sanderson remain in custody.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), and the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE) conducted the investigation that led to the prosecution of Sanderson. The Fairbanks branch of ABADE includes officers from the Alaska State Troopers, the Fairbanks Police Department, and the University of Fairbanks Police Department.

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