

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

*RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY*

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

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EAST ST. LOUIS MAN SENTENCED ON CRACK COCAINE CHARGES

Randy G. Massey, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on July 16, 2007, **BYRON BLAKE**, age 38, of East St. Louis, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District in East St. Louis, Illinois. **BLAKE** was sentenced to 420 months' imprisonment, was fined \$3000, and was placed on 10 years' supervised release.

BLAKE was found guilty by a jury of Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Crack Cocaine, Distribution of Crack Cocaine, and Distribution of Cocaine.

The investigation was part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) operation and was conducted by agents and officers of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, MEGSI, and the Illinois State Police. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Donald S. Boyce, James M. Cutchin, and Robert L. Garrison.