



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber  
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008  
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/KYW

CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN  
PHONE: (502) 582-5911  
FAX: (502) 582-5097

## **PRIMARY BOWLING GREEN COCAINE RING IN PRISON**

*– Corey Ferguson sentenced to 25 years  
– 8 co-defendants previously sentenced to a total of 67 years*

BOWLING GREEN, KY - Corey Ferguson, age 36, of 2946 Mt. Lebanon Church Road, Alvaton, Kentucky, in Warren County, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment, in United States District Court, Bowling Green, Kentucky, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. Ferguson had previously been found guilty by a federal jury in United States District Court, Bowling Green, Kentucky, of conspiracy and aiding and abetting the distribution of 500 grams or more of cocaine. Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Ferguson to 8 years supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system.

The jury's verdicts of guilty were returned following a five-day trial before Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court. The charges and trial stemmed from a year-long investigation by the ATF, Bowling Green / Warren County Drug Task Force, Kentucky State Police, Warren County Sheriff's Office, Western Kentucky University Police Department, and the Bowling Green Police Department. The investigation centered around drug trafficking activity in and around the Fadz 4 Dayz Barber Shop located at 2319 Russellville Road, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Ten individuals were indicted in conjunction with the investigation in May 2006. Corey

Ferguson was the only defendant who went to trial. All of the remaining co-defendants, including Richard Cox, Jerome Shanklin, Collin Carpenter, William Downy, Trevor Hampton, Albert Ferguson, Benita Ferguson, and Derrick Lander previously pled guilty to drug-related charges in federal court. Co-defendant Damon Nelson pled guilty to related charges in Warren Circuit Court. Cox was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, Shanklin to 5 years imprisonment, Carpenter to 20 years imprisonment, Downey to 18 years imprisonment, Hampton to time served, Albert Ferguson to 2 years and 6 months imprisonment, Benita Ferguson to 1 year and 6 months imprisonment, and Lander to 5 years imprisonment.

Ferguson had been tried for three counts of violating federal drug laws. The charges included conspiracy as well as aiding and abetting the distribution of cocaine. Over the course of four days, the United States presented evidence from 13 witnesses, including three people who had direct hand-to-hand drug transactions with Ferguson and three others who bought drugs from Ferguson through an intermediary. The evidence presented at trial showed that law enforcement officials became aware of Ferguson's involvement in drug trafficking activities in Bowling Green in 2005. During that same time period, law enforcement officials were investigating illegal drug activities conducted at the Fadz 4 Dayz barber shop. Over the course of several months, law enforcement officials gathered additional information regarding Ferguson and other members of the drug ring. With the permission of the property owner, cameras were installed to record the comings and goings at the barber shop. A confidential informant was used to make several controlled purchases of powder cocaine and crack cocaine from a co-defendant in the case.

Later in the investigation, law enforcement officials applied for and obtained a court order to allow a Title III wire intercept. Under the authority of the court order, law enforcement officials entered the barber shop and installed two cameras. The cameras provided audio and

video feed. Officers monitored the audio and video from a nearby location where they made notations of activities and conversations. The United States presented clips from these recordings during the trial.

The United States also introduced certified copies of Ferguson's cell phone records. The records showed significant phone contact between Ferguson and other co-conspirators. One date highlighted during the trial concerned February 1, 2006. The United States introduced evidence for that date that showed a ½ kilo of cocaine deal between two co-defendants. The Title III wire intercept captured payment for the ½ kilo deal – concealed in a shoe box – being placed in Ferguson's car immediately after several cell phone calls and his appearance at the barber shop. The street value of the ½ kilo of powder cocaine was \$12,000.00.

In addition to evidence concerning drug activities, the United States also called witnesses concerning Ferguson's arrest. On the date in question, May 15, 2006, law enforcement officials traveled to Ferguson's residence on Mt. Lebanon Church Road. They noticed surveillance equipment on the exterior of the home and a black Ford Explorer (a car previously driven by Ferguson) parked in the driveway. For 30-45 minutes, uniformed Kentucky State Troopers knocked on the door. When the officers first approached, they noticed a hand move a shade from inside the house and heard music stop. No one, however, would answer the door. The police later left to attend to other business. After their departure, a neighbor noticed a red pickup truck pull into Ferguson's driveway and circle the house. A black male got out of the truck and appeared to be working on an air conditioning unit while talking on a cell phone. Shortly thereafter, the garage door on the home opened and a black male left the house, entered the pickup truck as a passenger, and the truck drove away. The neighbor called the Kentucky State Police. A dispatcher sent out the information and a Trooper stopped the red truck. The Trooper located Ferguson as the passenger in the vehicle.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The Bowling Green

Field Office of ATF conducted this investigation in partnership with the Warren County /  
Bowling Green Drug Task Force, as part of their mandated mission to reduce violent crime and  
other threats to public safety.

###