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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 2008

CONTACT: Edmund A. Booth, Jr.
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Thunderbolt Man Sentenced on Federal Firearms Charges
Arising from Downtown Shooting

SAVANNAH: Edmund A. Booth, Jr., United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that **Deon Monroe Jones**, age 25, of Thunderbolt, was sentenced today to 200 months in prison and a \$3,000.00 fine by U.S. District Judge B. Avant Edenfield. Jones was convicted on July 11, 2008 by a jury in the United States District Court in Savannah of possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon and unlawful user of controlled substances during a June 1, 2004 aggravated assault in downtown Savannah and during a June 18, 2004 search at his home.

The evidence at trial resulted from an investigation by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in conjunction with the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department. Jones was arrested at his home on June 18, 2004, in possession of .38 and .44 caliber ammunition, during a police investigation of a June 1, 2004 shooting on West Gordon Street in downtown Savannah. The shooting was committed with a .38 caliber revolver. Witnesses testified that Jones used the gun to commit the shooting, in which an unsuspecting resident was shot in the back following a botched robbery attempt. The evidence showed that Jones later hid the remaining ammunition in his room.

Booth stated that Jones will be required to serve three years of supervised release following completion of service of his 200 month sentence. Booth added “there is no parole in the federal system.” Jones is presently in the custody of the United States Marshal awaiting transfer to a federal facility designated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Booth noted that this case was federally prosecuted as part of the district’s Project Ceasefire initiative, a program devoted to reducing gun violence by prosecuting individuals found in possession of firearms who cannot legally possess them, such as felons and drug dealers.

The United States was represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Cameron Heaps Ippolito and Jessica L. McClellan.

100-08



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