

# NEWS

*United States Department of Justice  
U. S. Attorney, Eastern District of Louisiana  
500 Poydras Street, Suite B210  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130*

## **JIM LETTEN, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

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Contact:  
Kathy English  
(504) 680-3068

Immediate Release  
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## TRIAL RESULTS IN FEDERAL CONVICTIONS OF TWO MEN FOR WAVE OF ELEVEN CARJACKINGS

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA** - Jim Letten, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana; Mark Chait, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and Edwin P. Compass, III, Superintendent, New Orleans Police Department, announced today that **LOVELLE LANG** and **JAYSON LEE**, both of New Orleans, were convicted yesterday, March 14, 2005, in United States District Court with conspiracy to commit carjacking, carjacking, conspiracy to use firearms during crimes of violence, and use of firearms

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during crimes of violence. In addition, **LOVELLE LANG** and **JAYSON LEE** were both convicted of being felons in possession of firearms.

The evidence at trial established that during the course of the conspiracy, the defendants committed multiple home invasions, armed carjackings robberies, and attempted murders.

**LOVELLE LANG** shot and wounded a police officer in New Orleans, and was captured in Baton Rouge after a high-speed chase. The six-day trial was conducted before United States District Court Judge Kurt D. Engelhardt. The prosecution was undertaken pursuant to the Department of Justice's *Project Safe Neighborhoods* program.

The jury deliberated for approximately four hours before finding **LOVELLE LANG** guilty of 9 of the 16 counts against him. **JAYSON LEE** was found guilty of all 9 counts in which he was named. Both defendants face a maximum of twenty (20) years imprisonment for conspiracy to use firearms during crimes of violence, fifteen (15) years imprisonment for each count of carjacking, and five (5) years imprisonment for conspiracy to commit carjacking. In addition, **LOVELLE LANG** and **JAYSON LEE** also face up to ten (10) years imprisonment for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Each count of conviction carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. In addition, each defendant faces a mandatory sentence of fifty-five (55) years for the use of firearms during the crimes of violence for which they were convicted. Federal law requires that the fifty-five (55) year sentence run consecutively to any other sentence imposed.

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United States Attorney Letten stated:

“The steadfast commitment of the U. S. Attorney’s Office, along with our partners in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as well as the New Orleans Police Department, Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office, Louisiana State Police, St. John Parish Sheriff’s Office and others is strongly evidenced by yesterday’s victory resulting in the conviction of two serial carjackers, who themselves were responsible for a virtual crime wave against the citizens of our communities. These convictions and the long federal prison sentences which we anticipate against these two predators, will stand as a tangible, powerful signal to those who wish to terrorize our community and our citizens that the unprecedented cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement in aggressively pursuing violent criminals is yielding positive results. In an effort to continue to make a difference in our community, our federal prosecutions of dangerous violent felons and drug dealers is increasing, and will continue as long as we must in order to keep up constant pressure against this relatively small group of ruthless criminals who live and move among us. We would continue to apprehend, prosecute and jail violent offenders in the federal system. We will not fail.”

Special Agent in Charge Chait also noted, "The courageous actions of New Orleans Police Officers Desmond Julian and Devin Joseph must also be recognized as well as the cooperation and professionalism of the New Orleans Police Department."

This matter was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the New Orleans Police Department, as well as the Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office, the St. John Parish Sheriff’s Office and the Louisiana State Police. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Nils R. Kessler and Mark A. Miller.

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