



# News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Contact: J. Mark Powell  
(803) 734-3670  
[mpowell@scag.gov](mailto:mpowell@scag.gov)

## State Grand Jury Indicts 35 People in Marijuana and Prescription Drug Trafficking Operation

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the State Grand Jury has returned an indictment against thirty-five (35) people in connection with an Upstate marijuana and prescription drug trafficking operation.

**Joshua Ellsworth (AKA "Zack")** (DOB 1/13/1975) of Aptos, California, is charged with Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy), and Distribution of Marijuana x5; **Michael Christopher Davis** (DOB 12/21/1989) of Taylors, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Farrell Katelyn White** (DOB 10/3/1992) of Greenville, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Brian Preston Pace** (DOB 3/30/1988) of Travelers Rest, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **James Michael Smith, Junior** (DOB 3/19/1988) of Travelers rest, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Thomas William Smith, Junior** (DOB 4/26/1990) of Greenville, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **James Michael Wiley** (DOB 4/29/1956) of York, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Keegan Milton Rhoades** (DOB 3/29/1991) of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Reece Hunter Motley** (DOB 9/13/1989) of Charleston, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Timothy Edward Suggs** (DOB 5/15/1991) of Seneca, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Kent Logan Carpenter** (DOB 8/24/1990) of Florence, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Michael Ross Gordon** (DOB 8/28/1989) of Clemson, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Carter Cowan Lathan** (DOB 2/8/1989) of Greenville, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy) and Distribution of Marijuana; **David Benjamin Scroggs** (DOB 9/4/1990) of Clemson, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy) and Distribution of Marijuana x2; **Michael Patrick Bobinski (AKA "Biscuit")** (DOB 11/13/1991) of Clemson, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Jarrod Randal Sampson** (DOB 8/19/1980) of Norris, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Michael Anthony Looper** (DOB 1/21/1993) of Fountain Inn, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Emma Frances Poole Bearden** (DOB 4/27/1990) of Piedmont, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Derek Michael Hancock** (DOB 3/27/1989) of Piedmont, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Justin Ray Harris** (DOB 5/9/1983) of Greer, S.C.,

Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Patricia Kaye Norman** (DOB 2/24/1966) of Crystal Bay, Nevada, Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Amanda Raye Copeland** (DOB 7/23/1989) of Ronkonkoma, New York, Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Nicholas Joseph Schirripa** (DOB 7/23/1989) of central South Carolina, Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy), Trafficking Marijuana, 10-100 lbs. (Conspiracy) x2 and Possession With Intent to Distribute Marijuana; **Taylor Alexander DuBose** (DOB 3/20/1991) of central South Carolina, Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy), Trafficking Marijuana, 10-100 lbs. (Conspiracy) x2, Trafficking in Illegal Drugs (Oxycodone) (Conspiracy), and Distribution Of Schedule II Substance (Oxycodone) x3; **Daniel Stuart Defore** (DOB 9/10/1990) of Columbia, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Jessica Latres Epps** (DOB 1/18/1989) of Easley, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 100 - 2,000 lbs. (Conspiracy) and Distribution of Marijuana; **Duke William Finley** (DOB 8/17/1990) of Raleigh, N.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 10-100 lbs. (Conspiracy) and Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute; **Jessica Grace Brewer** (DOB 8/24/1991) of Pendleton, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 10-100 lbs. (Conspiracy) and Possession of Marijuana With Intent to Distribute; **Andrew Michael Moran** (DOB 7/21/1986) of Seneca, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 10-100 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Thomas Carl Wyatt** (DOB 4/25/1986) of Westminster, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 10-100 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Adam Lee Harvey** (DOB 10/3/1981) of Charlotte, N.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 10-100 lbs. (Conspiracy); **Jordan Michael Decot** (DOB 2/7/1990) of Greenville, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 10-100 lbs. (Conspiracy) and Distribution of Marijuana; **Jonathan P. Mangiapane** (DOB 10/10/1989) of Jersey City, New Jersey, Trafficking Marijuana, 10-100 lbs. (Conspiracy) x2; **Adriano Michael Menin** (DOB 6/25/1991) of Seneca, S.C., Trafficking Marijuana, 10-100 lbs. (Conspiracy); and **Thomas Kendall Yearwood** (DOB 5/11/1990) of Travelers Rest, S.C., Trafficking in Illegal Drugs (Oxycodone) (Conspiracy) 2) Dist. Of Schedule II Substance (Oxycodone) x2.

The indictment alleges that from 2009 to the present, multiple individuals in South Carolina and as far away as California conspired to transport and distribute thousands of pounds of marijuana and prescription drugs throughout Greenville, Pickens, and Oconee Counties, with illegal activity also occurring in York, Anderson, Spartanburg, and Cherokee Counties.

Each offense carries the following punishment upon conviction:

Trafficking Marijuana, 10 – 100 pounds: 1-10 years and a \$10,000 fine;

Trafficking Marijuana, 100-2,000 pounds: 25 years and a \$25,000 fine;

Distribution of Marijuana (first offense): up to 5 years and/or a fine up to \$5,000;

Possession with Intent to Distribute (PWID) Marijuana: up to 5 years and/or a fine up to \$5,000;

Trafficking in Illegal Drugs, (28g or more): 25-40 years and a \$200,000 fine;

Distribution of Schedule II Controlled Substance: 0-15 years and/or a fine up to \$25,000.

Agents from the California Department of Justice, Santa Clara County (California) Special Enforcement Team, DEA Greenville, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, South Carolina Highway Patrol, South Carolina Department of Probation, Pickens County Sheriff's Office, Oconee County Sheriff's Office, York County Drug Enforcement Unit, Greenville Police Department, Easley Police Department, Anderson County Sheriff's Office, Seneca Police Department, South Carolina National Guard/ Counter Drug Unit, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), Butte County (California) Sheriff's Office, U.S. Marshals Service, Clemson Police Department, Greenville County Sheriff's Office, and Travelers Rest Police Department participated in the investigation.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Joshua R. Underwood and Assistant Deputy Attorney General Heather S. Weiss.

Attorney General Wilson stressed all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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