

Portland man gets 15 years for massive crack cocaine distribution

by Cheryl McDermott

A 36-year old Portland man described as a large-scale distributor of crack cocaine was sentenced this week to more than 15 years in federal prison for drug crimes and wire fraud, United States Attorney Karin J. Immergut announced.

Kyllo Penn came under scrutiny in 2004 when he was identified as a drug distributor who purchased powder cocaine by the kilogram, converted it into crack, and sold it to various drug dealers in the Portland metro area.

Penn was indicted in 2007, and in November pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine and a single count of wire fraud. According to the FBI, the wire fraud was tied to a scheme Penn participated in to induce a mortgage lender to fund a home loan of almost \$342,000 by misrepresenting ownership of property and income.

He was sentenced to 188 months in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Anna J. Brown, who said, "A sentence of 15-plus years is a significant punishment. He will spend the rest of his young adulthood -- if you can still characterize him as young -- and into middle age, and beyond, in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons. He is going to be away from his family. He's going to be away from the community. And at some level, that's a good thing, given what he brought on to this community and all of the pedaling of poison that his criminal conduct facilitated. . . . His conduct was extraordinarily serious. It undoubtedly caused harm throughout our community and it facilitated addiction behaviors at their very worst level."

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