

Government wins half a house

by UPI

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - A U.S. appeals court ruled the government is entitled to only half of a Connecticut house where marijuana was found growing in the basement.

The 2nd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals based its decision on a finding that co-owner Kathleen Von Hofe wasn't actively involved in her husband Harold's marijuana cultivation, The New Haven (Conn.) Register reported Friday.

The Branford, Conn., couple were charged following a 2001 raid on their home that turned up 65 marijuana plants, glass smoking pipes and other items associated with the cultivation of marijuana.

Harold Von Hofe pleaded guilty to manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance while his wife, Kathleen, pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance.

In the meantime, the U.S. government moved to seize their ranch home valued at \$248,000, the newspaper reported.

A federal district court ruled in the government's favor but the couple won on appeal.

Now Kathleen Von Hofe owns half interest of the house with the government, the Register said.

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