



# FBI LOUISVILLE CITIZENS ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**March 2020**

## **Events at FBI Headquarters in Louisville**

**Counter Terrorism Case of the Year**

**U.S. v. Alwan, etal**

**Tim Beam SSA, CDC Presenting**

**April 16, 2020**

**5:00 PM for food**

**Starts at 6:00 PM**

**RSVP by April 6, 2020**

**Louisville.Outreach@FBI.gov**

**Will need to give name, date of birth, and social security number in email when RSVPing**

**Shooting Simulator**

**June 9, 2020**

**2 Sessions**

**1st Session ~ 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM ~ 15 people only**

**2nd Session ~ 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM ~ 15 people only**

**Members Only**

**No food will be provided**

**RSVP by June 1, 2020**

**Louisville.Outreach@FBI.gov**

**Will need to give name, date of birth, and social security number in email when RSVPing**

## Mexican National Sentenced To 66 Months For Cocaine Trafficking

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

**LEXINGTON, KY-** A Mexican National illegally in the U.S., Roberto Bernal Salas, also known as Enrique Navarrette Salas, 43, was sentenced to 66 months in federal prison, by U.S. District Judge Karen Caldwell, for distributing cocaine.

Salas admitted that on July 2, 2019, he agreed to sell two kilograms of cocaine to a cooperating witness. On the same day, after the exchange, Salas admitted that officers found an additional 1.5 kilograms of cocaine, as well as \$33,000 in cash.

Salas pled guilty in October 2019.

Under federal law, Salas must serve 85 percent of his prison sentence and will be under the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office for three years.

Robert M. Duncan, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky; James Robert Brown, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation-Louisville Field Office; John Condon, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); and Chief Lawrence Weathers, Lexington Police Department, jointly made the announcement.

The investigation was directed by the FBI, HSI, and LPD. The United States was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Roger West.

## Afghan Man Convicted By Jury of Conspiracy To Commit Kidnapping and Conspiracy To Commit Murder For Hire

Monday, February 10, 2020

**LEXINGTON, KY** – An Afghan man was convicted Friday, by a federal jury sitting in Lexington, of conspiring to commit kidnapping and murder-for-hire, targeting a victim and his minor son.

Following a five-day trial, the jury convicted 32-year-old Fnu “John” Sadiquallah of one count of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and one count of conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire.

According to the evidence presented at trial, Fnu “John” Sadiquallah believed that the victim owed him tens of thousands of dollars. After repeated attempts to try to get his money back, through persistent visits to the victim’s place of business, Sadiquallah contacted Mahmoud Shalash to help him get his money back. Shalash had been working with a confidential human source, for whom Shalash had laundered approximately \$100,000. Shalash introduced the confidential source to Sadiquallah as an individual who could collect debts, by any means necessary.

Evidence at trial demonstrated that Sadiquallah and the confidential source proceeded to agree to kidnap the victim or his son; attempt to retrieve the money; and then, if necessary, kill the victim. Three days later, when Sadiquallah learned that the victim was in Lexington, Sadiquallah, along with other friends, cornered the victim at his place of business and called the confidential source to carry out the plan. The confidential source, who had been working for the FBI during this entire period of time, reported the incident to the FBI, which then took the victim and his son into protective custody.

A third defendant, Hadi Abdul, was acquitted at the trial.

Robert M. Duncan, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, and James Robert Brown, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation-Louisville Field Office, jointly announced the verdict. The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The United States was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrew T. Boone and Kathryn M. Anderson.

Sadiquallah will appear for sentencing on June 11, 2020. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. Shalash had previously pleaded guilty for his role in these offenses, and others, on January 27, 2020. His sentencing is scheduled for June 18, 2020. He also faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. However, the Court must consider the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the applicable federal sentencing statutes before imposing a sentence

## Jackson Woman Pleads Guilty To Soliciting Kickbacks, Making False Statements To Law Enforcement Agents, and Tampering With Records

Friday, January 10, 2020

**LEXINGTON, KY—** A Jackson, Kentucky, woman admitted in federal court on January 10, 2020, she solicited kickbacks from a toxicology laboratory in exchange for urine drug testing referrals, lied to law enforcement agents about the kickback she received, and then attempted to cover up the kickback by requesting the alteration of certain financial records.

Theresa C. Merced, 80, pleaded guilty today to one count of violating the Eliminating Kickbacks in Recovery Act (EKRA), 18 U.S.C. § 220; one count of making false statements, 18 U.S.C. § 1001; and one count of attempted tampering with records, 18 U.S.C. § 1512, before U.S. District Court Chief Judge Danny C. Reeves.

Merced, the office manager of a substance abuse treatment clinic in Jackson, Ky., admitted that between December 2018 and August 2019, she solicited kickbacks from the CEO of a toxicology lab in exchange for urine drug test referrals. According to the plea agreement, in August 2019 the CEO delivered to Merced a \$4,000 check as part of a larger package of promised inducements. Merced caused the check to be cashed. When Merced was questioned about the check by law enforcement agents in September 2019, she denied knowledge of it, and stated that the \$4,000 was probably a loan from the lab CEO to her husband. Shortly after her interview with the agents concluded, Merced called the lab CEO and asked that he alter the lab's financial records so that the entry for the \$4,000 check would say "rent/loan," consistent with the lie she told the agents.

EKRA, enacted by Congress in October 2018 as part of a broader package of legislation aimed at combatting the opioid crisis, prohibits, among other things, the solicitation or receipt of kickbacks in exchange for the referral of urine drug testing services. Merced's EKRA conviction is believed to be the first in the nation.

Robert M. Duncan, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Derrick L. Jackson, Special Agent in Charge at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Atlanta Field Office, and Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron jointly announced the guilty plea.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, and the Kentucky Office of Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. The U.S. Attorney's Office was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul McCaffrey.

Merced is scheduled to be sentenced on May 1, 2020. She faces up to 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. However, any sentence will be imposed by the Court after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statutes.

## Albany Pharmacist Pleads Guilty To Illegal Distribution Of Controlled Substances

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

BOWLING GREEN, KY – An Albany, Kentucky, pharmacist has pleaded guilty to three counts of illegal distribution of controlled substances, announced the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Kentucky.

Kenton L. Shearer was charged via an Information on January 10, 2020, with three counts of illegal distribution of controlled substances.

Between March 10, 2015, and April 15, 2015, Shearer filled, or allowed his employees to fill, prescriptions containing hydrocodone, a Schedule II controlled substance, for patient J.Y., even though Shearer knew that the prescriptions were not written for a legitimate medical purpose. Shearer knew J.Y. was doctor shopping to obtain prescriptions for the same medications from multiple doctors, and because the hydrocodone polistirex (cough medicine) Dr. Michael Cummings prescribed to J.Y. had been prescribed for far longer than recommended in prescription guidelines.

Between August 16, 2011, and June 21, 2014, Shearer filled, or allowed his employees to fill, prescriptions containing hydrocodone, a Schedule III controlled substance, for patient J.Y., even though Shearer knew that the prescriptions were not written for a legitimate medical purpose. Shearer knew J.Y. was doctor shopping to obtain prescriptions for the same medications from multiple doctors, because the hydrocodone polistirex (cough medicine) Dr. Michael Cummings prescribed to J.Y. had been prescribed for far longer than recommended in prescription guidelines, and because Shearer filled prescriptions early on multiple occasions.

Between August 16, 2011, and April 8, 2015, Shearer filled, or allowed his employees to fill, prescriptions containing alprazolam, a Schedule IV controlled substance, for patient J.Y., even though Shearer knew that the prescriptions were not written for a legitimate medical purpose. Shearer knew J.Y. was doctor shopping to obtain prescriptions for the same medications from multiple doctors, and because Shearer filled prescriptions early on multiple occasions.

The United States will seek a sentence of 15 months in federal prison followed by a term of 3 years supervised release. The defendant has agreed to forfeit a \$200,000 monetary judgment to the United State, which will be due on or before the sentencing date. Sentencing is set for May 14, 2020.

Dr. Michael Cummings was prosecuted by the United States and was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment in July of 2019.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Weiser. The case was investigated by the Kentucky State Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Office of the Inspector General.

## U.S. Attorney Russell Coleman Opens Bowling Green Office With Full-Time Federal Prosecutors For First Time Ever

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

BOWLING GREEN, KY – For the first time in the history of Kentucky there will be a full-time staffed federal prosecutors’ office in Bowling Green, Kentucky, announced United States Attorney Russell Coleman.

“You shouldn’t expect less of your government the further you live from Louisville or the Golden Triangle,” said U.S. Attorney Russell Coleman. “Having a full-time office in Bowling Green will allow us to better collaborate with our many outstanding law enforcement partners throughout SouthCentral Kentucky in the fight to protect Warren and surrounding counties from predators seeking our kids, online thieves targeting our older family members, and historically high levels of drug cartel-produced poison from Mexico.”

Opening the full-time staffed office was a lengthy administrative process, requiring approval from the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC, and ultimately Congress. Historically the un-staffed courthouse office has been used by federal prosecutors making the two hour commute from the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Louisville. Having full-time Assistant U.S. Attorneys in Bowling Green that live in the community will foster deeper working relationships with local law enforcement and state prosecutors that will lead to better outcomes for the citizens of the Southcentral Kentucky region in mitigating the threat of increased drug trafficking in ever more dangerous substances, online elder fraud, and child exploitation.

“The opening of a United States Attorney’s Office will both expedite federal cases and foster a closer working relationship with state, local and federal law-enforcement,” said Tommy Loving, Director of Bowling Green-Warren Co. Drug Task Force. “I have personally asked many times over the last 20 years for a full-time United States Attorney’s Office to be opened in Bowling Green. I thank United States Attorney Russell Coleman for listening to our needs and opening this office. Without his strong support of law-enforcement this would have never happened and it will be a great asset to the entire region.”

Continued . . .

“As the Warren County Attorney, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with the United States Attorney’s Office to provide a collaborative effort between County Government and the Federal Government,” said Warren Co. Attorney Amy Milliken. “This partnership, while unique, will prove to be beneficial to all Warren County citizens. Working together builds strong partnerships and those partnerships equate to friendships. I am excited to work with USA Russell Coleman to make this office, position and partnership a success!”

“FBI Louisville welcomes the United States Attorney’s Office (WDKY) full-time to Bowling Green,” said Special Agent In-Charge Robert Brown Jr. “This is a monumental win for Kentucky. Having dedicated federal prosecutors working side by side with our Special Agents in Bowling Green, as well as with other federal and state partners, will only bolster all of our commitments to protecting the citizens of the Western District of Kentucky.”

The announcement was made during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the United States District Courthouse in Bowling Green, which will initially accommodate full-time Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Madison Sewell who will be joined by Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) Mark Yurchisin, and yet another full-time AUSA later this year once hired by U.S. Attorney Coleman.

Yurchisin, who was born and raised in Warren County, was sworn-in as the first-ever Bowling Green-based Special Assistant U.S. Attorney on Wednesday during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. He currently serves as an Assistant County Attorney for Warren County Attorney Amy Milliken. Prior to joining the county attorney’s office, Yurchisin served as an Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney for the 38<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in Morgantown, Kentucky. As a SAUSA, Yurchisin will serve as a critical link between the U.S. Attorney’s Office and local prosecutors to better protect the people of Southcentral Kentucky from drug trafficking, fraud, and violent crime.

## Former Louisville Armored Truck Driver Sentenced

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

### ***Mark Nicholas Espinosa stole more than \$900,000 from an armored truck before fleeing Kentucky***

LOUISVILLE, KY – Former GardaWorld armored truck driver Mark Nicholas Espinosa has been sentenced to 37 months imprisonment and ordered to pay \$932,285.22 in restitution, for five charges related to the theft of more than \$900,000 from the vehicle, announced United States Attorney Russell Coleman.

“When the FBI, LMPD, and U.S. Attorney’s Office collaborate as partners, the people of Louisville are the beneficiaries and thieves such as Mr. Espinosa pay the price,” said U.S. Attorney Russell Coleman.

Espinosa was charged by a Louisville Grand Jury in February with theft from a common carrier, bank robbery, interstate transportation of stolen money, monetary transactions involving stolen money, and money laundering.

According to a plea agreement, in late 2018 Espinosa began creating identification documents for "Sam Smith" on his computer. On December 5, 2018, Espinosa was working with a partner in a bullet-proof armored truck, collecting money from various Louisville businesses. The duo arrived at the Jefferson Mall in Louisville, and Espinosa's partner told Espinosa that he would pick up cash from customers inside the Mall, and that Espinosa should drive the truck and meet him at the exit on the other side of the Mall. When Espinosa's partner finished his pick-ups and exited the Mall, Espinosa was not there.

Shortly thereafter the Garda World truck was found abandoned in the Mall parking lot. Espinosa was missing, but his gun, backpack, and cell phone battery were located inside the truck. Also missing was \$932,285.22 in cash from the back of the truck. Espinosa stole the money and fled Kentucky to Connecticut, driving through Ohio and Pennsylvania, in an attempt to evade law enforcement. Espinosa was ultimately arrested in Connecticut, living under the name Sam Smith, and \$892,737.89 was found in Espinosa's Connecticut apartment.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys David Weiser and Rob Bonar, and was investigated by the Louisville Metro Police Department Robbery Unit and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

## Cincinnati Man Convicted Of Fentanyl And Heroin Trafficking

Thursday, February 6, 2020

**COVINGTON, KY—** A Cincinnati man was convicted on February 5, 2020, by a federal jury in Covington, for participating in an extensive conspiracy to distribute kilogram quantities of heroin and fentanyl.

After two hours of deliberation, following a three-day trial, the jury convicted 37-year old Quintin Tyler Brian Davis of conspiracy to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl and one kilogram or more of heroin. They also found him guilty of possessing fentanyl and heroin with the intent to distribute it.

According to testimony at trial, Davis conspired with Ronnie Teets and Donald Hoffman to distribute multiple kilograms of fentanyl and heroin received through delivery services, cut the substances with lactose, and distributed them in the Greater Cincinnati area. Agents seized more than \$100,000 in currency, a loaded handgun, and several quantities of heroin and fentanyl from locations in Cincinnati and Florence, Kentucky, in August of 2018.

Davis, Teets, and Hoffman were indicted in December 2018. Davis' co-defendants previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges. Hoffman pleaded guilty in December 2018, and Teets pleaded guilty in April 2019.

Robert M. Duncan, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Keith Martin, Special Agent in Charge, DEA Detroit Field Division; Director Christopher Conners, Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force; and Chief Eliot Isaac, Cincinnati Police Department, jointly announced the conviction.

The investigation was conducted by the DEA, the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force, and Cincinnati Police Department. The U.S. Attorney's Office was represented in the case by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tony Bracke.

Davis will appear for sentencing on May 21, 2020. He faces up to a maximum of life in prison. However, the Court must consider the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the applicable federal sentencing statutes before imposing a sentence.

# Hearty Golden Chowder

## Mindy's Kitchen Korner



### Hearty Golden Chowder



**Prep time: 20 minutes**

**Total time: 50 min**

**Servings: 6 servings**



**Chowder is always good on a chilly night. But with sharp cheddar cheese, this hearty, vegetarian-friendly soup is flat-out amazing!**

### Ingredients

- 2 cups cold water
- 2 cups chopped potatoes
- 1/2 cup sliced carrots
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 Tablespoon chopped fresh chives
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Dash pepper
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups Kraft Shredded SHARP Cheddar Cheese

### Directions

Bring water, vegetables, chives, and seasonings to boil in medium saucepan on high heat. Reduce heat to low; cover. Simmer 10 minutes. Do not drain.

Melt butter in large saucepan on low heat. Stir in flour. Cook 1 minutes or until bubbly. Gradually add milk, stirring until well blended. Cook on medium heat until mixture boils and thickens, stirring constantly. Add cheese; cook until melted, stirring constantly.

Add vegetable mixture; cook until heated through. Do not boil.

Bake 25 minutes or until heated through.

### Tip:

Can substitute chicken broth for water for extra flavor.

## Inspirational Quotes:

"How would your life be different if . . . You stopped making negative judgmental assumptions about people you encounter? Let today be the day you look for the good in everyone you meet and respect their journey."

– Steve Maraboli

"Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts."

– Arnold Bennett

"A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it is not open."

– Frank Zappa



The rarest type of diamond is green.

Blue and white are the most common school colors.

In a deck of cards the king of hearts is the only king without a moustache.

A deck of cards should be shuffled at least 7 times before playing.

A pip is one of the spots on die or domino.

The game of Tug-of-war was an Olympic sport from 1900-1920.

## FBILCAA Officers/Board Members



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### **Covington**

Vacant

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Do you have ideas or suggestions for the newsletter? Then submit them, with or without pictures, to me at:



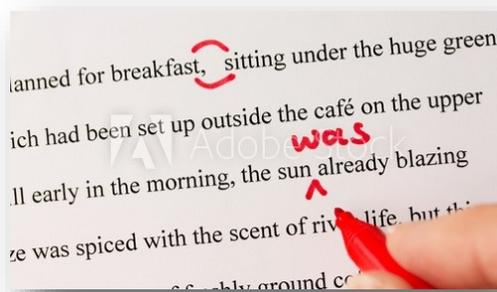
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I welcome any ideas or articles from Alumni, FBI, and FBI staff.



**Please note that ALL articles are edited if necessary.**



Mindy Rockwell  
FBILCA Class #2

