



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that David William Linder, a/k/a Dr. Benway, age 52, of Bullhead City, Arizona, was sentenced today by the Honorable Jerome B. Friedman, United States District Court Judge, to life imprisonment for his conviction of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5-MeO-DIPT, AMT and controlled substance analogues. He also received an additional combined 410 years imprisonment, to be served concurrently, for his convictions of distributing controlled substance analogs; use of a communication facility; conspiracy to launder money instruments; and money laundering. Additionally, a judgment for \$700,000 was imposed for the proceeds derived from drugs.

Linder was charged in a 27-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Norfolk, Virginia, on September 22, 2004. Linder operated an Internet website, www.pondman.nu, with a hyper-link for the distribution of controlled substance analogues, which were offered for sale as "research chemicals." The indictment followed the convictions of Richard Klecker and Michael Wolfe, both former active duty Navy personnel, who actively marketed the drugs to other active duty military personnel in Hampton Roads.

On February 15, 2005, after a two-week trial, a jury found Linder guilty of all 27 counts of the indictment and also found that his distribution of AMT resulted in the overdose death of Phillip Conklin, age 18, in Hancock, New York.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This sentencing accurately reflects the tremendous harm caused by the defendant's drug trafficking. It also sends a clear warning of what may happen to anyone who pushes drugs over the internet."

The investigation was by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Assistant United States Attorney Laura P. Tayman prosecuted the case.