



# JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHRISTIAN A. REICHERT, MARION, FOUND GUILTY OF CANNABIS CONSPIRACY AND CANNABIS TRAFFICING

Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney for Jackson County, Illinois, announced today that a Jackson County jury found Christian A. Reichert of Marion, Illinois, guilty of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Deliver more than 5,000 grams of Cannabis and Trafficking in more than 5,000 grams of Cannabis following a 5-day jury trial which concluded on Monday, July 28, 2018. The jury deliberated for less than one hour before reaching its verdict.

At approximately 11:30 pm on July 31, 2016, Officer Trey Harris and his partner Corey Brinkley of the Carbondale Police Department were patrolling in the 700 block of N. Robert A Stalls in Carbondale when they heard gunshots and observed a car speeding away from the area. As the officers chased the car at speeds exceeding 90 miles per hour, one of the occupants fired several shots from a high-powered rifle at the police car, one of which went through the windshield, hitting Officer Harris in the eye. The officers quit the chase and proceeded to the hospital where Harris was treated, but not before Harris was able to give a description of the car and a partial license number. The car was found the next morning off Dewmaine School House Road, north of Carterville. A passerby reported to police that it was on fire.

Investigators determined that the license plates on the car had been stolen two days before when the car was purchased by Reichert, who used a fake name and paid for the car in cash. The evidence established that Reichert and others had been trafficking in cannabis and that on the Wednesday prior to the chase customers had taken 15 pounds of cannabis from members of this conspiracy without paying the full price of \$49,000 dollars. On July 31, 2016, several members of the conspiracy came to Carbondale to retaliate against the customers who had not paid for the cannabis and used the car purchased by Reichert to shoot at them in Carbondale. Investigators found shell casings in the burnt vehicle and on Dillinger road.

In addition to purchasing the car involved in the shooting, Reichert had rented a house for storage of the cannabis until it could be distributed. The house, located at Lake of Egypt, was searched and investigators found 42 pounds of cannabis individually wrapped in ½ pound quantities in a safe. Investigators also found behind the residence shell casing which had been shot from the same firearm as the casings found on Dillinger road.

The evidence showed that Reichert had traveled with Brandon Jones to Oregon a month before the shooting with over \$100,000 in cash hidden in the spare tire of a vehicle which was being pulled on a trailer. After loading 100 pounds of cannabis into the tires of the same trailered vehicle, Reichert and Brandon Jones drove it back from Oregon to southern Illinois for distribution.

Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Cannabis involving more than 5,000 grams is a Class 1 felony which carries a potential sentence of 4-15 years' imprisonment. It is a probationable offense. Cannabis Trafficking in more than 5,000 grams from another state to Illinois is a Class X felony and carries a potential 12 to 60-year sentence. Probation is not a possibility.

Following the verdict, the Court revoked the defendant's bond and ordered a presentence report. The defendant who was already in custody will remain in the custody of the Jackson County Sheriff pending sentencing which has been set for Wednesday, Sept 26, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

On July 12, 2018, co-defendant William Cummins, entered a plea of guilty to the same conspiracy to possess with the intent to deliver more than 5,000 grams of a substance containing cannabis, a Class 1 felony. He was sentenced to serve 48 months of probation and a total fine and costs exceeding \$36,000.

The trial for Reichert's remaining co-defendants was scheduled to begin on Monday, August 13, 2018. However, following Reichert's trial, co-defendants Brandon C.M. Jones, age 26, and Jared J. Jones, age 27, of Carterville, Illinois, each entered pleas of guilty to charges related in the original indictment and agreed to cooperate with the investigation.

On Monday, August 6, 2018, Brandon Jones pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to possess with the intent to deliver more than 5,000 grams of a substance containing cannabis, a Class 1 felony; and cannabis trafficking, a Class X felony. In exchange for his agreement to cooperate, he received concurrent sentences of 15 and 18 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections to be followed by a total of three (3) years of mandatory supervised release.

On Wednesday, August 8, 2018, Jared Jones pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiracy to possess with the intent to deliver more than 5,000 grams of a substance containing cannabis, a Class 1 felony. He was sentenced to ten (10) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, followed by a two (2) year period of mandatory supervised release in exchange for his agreement to cooperate with authorities.

The case against the remaining defendant, Alex Karcher was continued after the Jackson County Grand Jury returned additional charges against him yesterday, August 9, 2018. He is scheduled to appear in Jackson County Circuit Court on Friday, August 10, 2018, at 1:30 pm on those charges.

This case was investigated by the Illinois State Police, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, the Carbondale Police Department, the Illinois State Police Metro-East Forensic Science Lab, the United States Marshal's Service and the FBI, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Salina, Kansas Police Department. State's Attorney Michael Carr was responsible for the prosecutions.