

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Zambrano, Jesus

E.D. TX CR No. 9:91-CR4

Guilty plea

Name of AG Barr

Race & gender of def H M Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 4/23/1991

a cross-racial law enforcement officer victim. Two Hispanic men in Texas were sentenced to life imprisonment and 40 years, respectively, for the marijuana-related murder of a white law enforcement officer after a joint trial. The sentencing jury found no aggravating factors. 963 F.2d 725 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 113 S.Ct. 353 (1992). A third Hispanic defendant, Jesus Zambrano, was also initially approved for capital prosecution but received a sentence of 30 years after he testified for the government against the Villarreal brothers.

Culbert, Stacy

E.D. MI CR No. 92-81127

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Barr

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 7/22/1994

involves eight gun murders by a drug gang member. A prosecutor claimed that the gang was involved in up to 50 murders.

Johnson, Darryl

W.D. NY CR No. 92-159-C

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 7/29/1993

an African-American from the West Coast charged with two cocaine-related killings by a California and Tennessee connected, Buffalo, New York group, suspected in as many as five other murders. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. A guilty plea was entered in 1995 on the morning of trial. The defendant was sentenced to life imprisonment.

O'Bryant, Lonnie

E.D. MI CR No. 92-81127

Guilty plea

Name of AG Barr

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 8/11/1993

involves eight gun murders by a drug gang member. O'Bryant was charged in six murders. A prosecutor claimed that the gang was involved in up to 50 murders.

Perry, Wayne Anthony

D. DC CR No. 92-474

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BF BM

Date of DP notice 6/8/1993

eight murders by a hitman for a D.C. cocaine distribution ring between 1989-1991. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. In 1994, the defendant pleaded guilty to five homicide counts in exchange for the government's dropping the death penalty. He received five consecutive nonparolable life sentences and was sent to the federal "super max" prison in Colorado, ADX Florence.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Williams, Michael

E.D. MI CR No. 92-81127

Guilty plea

Name of AG Barr

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 8/11/1993

involves eight gun murders by a drug gang member. A prosecutor claimed that the gang was involved in up to 50 murders. Williams was charged with two murders, as well as seven other murders alleged in aggravation.

Wilkes, Charles

E.D. MI CR No. 92-81127

Guilty plea

Name of AG Barr

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 5/19/1994

involves eight gun murders by a drug gang member. Wilkes was charged in three murders. A prosecutor claimed that the gang was involved in up to 50 murders.

McCauley, Donzell M.

D. DC CR No. 94-121

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 3/24/1995

law enforcement officer victim - a young black man from the District of Columbia who struggled with and shot to death a police officer. Attorney General Reno required a capital prosecution for the cross-racial murder of a white law enforcement police officer despite the U. S. Attorney's initial decision that the death penalty not be sought. This authorization marked the first time in the post-Gregg era of capital punishment that the Attorney General required a capital prosecution in a federal criminal case despite the initial opposition of the United States Attorney. Subsequently, the defendant entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Vest, James

W.D. MO CR No. 94-00037-04

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W

M

Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 10/28/1994

three white brothers from Kansas City who were approved for a capital prosecution in 1994. They were charged with the well-planned double homicide of two Mexican drug dealers. Graves were dug and the victims abducted and bound with duct tape, suffocating to death. A fourth brother, Darrell Vest, did not face the death penalty. One defendant was also charged with a separate murder count in another drug rip-off. Guilty pleas were negotiated for all three.

Vest, Mark

W.D. MO CR No. 94-00037-04

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W

M

Victim R HF HM

Date of DP notice 10/28/1994

three white brothers from Kansas City who were approved for a capital prosecution in 1994. They were charged with the well-planned double homicide of two Mexican drug dealers. Graves were dug and the victims abducted and bound with duct tape, suffocating to death. A fourth brother, Darrell Vest, did not face the death penalty. Mark Vest was also charged with a separate murder count in another drug rip-off. Guilty pleas were negotiated for all three.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Vest, Steven

W.D. MO CR No. 94-00037-04

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 10/28/1994

three white brothers from Kansas City who were approved for a capital prosecution in 1994. They were charged with the well-planned double homicide of two Mexican drug dealers. Graves were dug and the victims abducted and bound with duct tape, suffocating to death. A fourth brother, Darrell Vest, did not face the death penalty. One defendant was also charged with a separate murder count in another drug rip-off. Guilty pleas were negotiated for all three.

Bonds, Andre

E.D. MO CR No. 4:95CR332

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 2/9/1996

a black teenager in an interstate carjacking case involving an 18 year old African-American defendant (and his 16 year old co-defendant) who allegedly killed one white female, took her car across state lines, kidnaping and raping her girlfriend - another Caucasian. Mr. Bonds pled guilty in 1996 and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Chen, Fu Xin

E.D. NY CR No. 95 0870

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def A M Victim R AF

Date of DP notice 7/9/1996

two Chinese gang members who kidnaped intrastate Chinese nationals living in the U.S. for ransom to be paid by relatives in China. One victim was raped and severely abused before being strangled after her family failed to pay the ransom demanded. Jia Wu and Fu Xin Chen pled guilty and received life sentences in 1996. Capital authorization against a third defendant, You Zhong Peng, was withdrawn by the Department of Justice just three days before his scheduled 1997 trial.

Chen, Jia Wu

E.D. NY CR No. 95 0870

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def A M Victim R AF

Date of DP notice 7/9/1996

two Chinese gang members who kidnaped intrastate Chinese nationals living in the U.S. for ransom to be paid by relatives in China. One victim was raped and severely abused before being strangled after her family failed to pay the ransom demanded. Jia Wu and Fu Xin Chen pled guilty and received life sentences in 1996. Capital authorization against a third defendant, You Zhong Peng, was withdrawn by the Department of Justice just three days before his scheduled 1997 trial.

Damon, Marvin

E.D. VA CR No. 3:95CR45

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 8/9/1995

two members of a drug ring, from Richmond, Virginia, African-American, 52 and 30 years old, charged with the distribution of heroin, mainly in one housing development in Richmond where another African-American was shot to death in 1994 by Damon, at co-defendant Williams' request. The government alleged numerous other homicides committed by Damon as Williams' enforcer. Damon agreed to plead guilty, attempted suicide and finally entered a plea. Damon has a low IQ which played a role in resolving the case short of trial. Williams pled guilty after a jury was seated.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

DeLaTorree, Jason

D. NM CR No. 95-538-MV

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 6/21/1996

murder in the aid of racketeering. The charges involve an L.A. gang, Sureno 13, moving crack and PCP from L.A. to Albuquerque. Among the seven murders connected to the gang one was of a high school student and another was a triple homicide. Five attempted murders were alleged, as well as a conspiracy to kill rival black drug dealers. Authorization was requested and granted by the Attorney General in 1996, for four of six defendants, but the government later withdrew its request for the death penalty as to one, after he was shown to be uninvolved in one of the two homicides originally charged against him. The remaining three entered guilty pleas: Mazzini received 25 years; Najar received 30 years; and De LaTorre received 22 years.

Fleming, Lamont

E.D. NC CR No. 4:95-CR-41-1-H-2

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BF BM

Date of DP notice 6/21/1996

involves a crack cocaine conspiracy alleging four 1995 murders by an African-American gang originating in Brooklyn, New York. Fleming, Gist and co-defendant Linton were triggermen. DOJ did not authorize capital prosecutions against four other defendants, including Linton. Guilty pleas were entered by the two capital defendants who were charged in two murders. The two capital homicides involved the separate murders of two participants in a prior drug-related murder. All involved are black.

Gist, Cory

E.D. NC CR No. 4:95-CR-41-1-H-2

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BF BM

Date of DP notice 6/21/1996

involves a crack cocaine conspiracy alleging four 1995 murders by an African-American gang originating in Brooklyn, New York. Fleming, Gist and co-defendant Linton were triggermen. DOJ did not authorize capital prosecutions against four other defendants, including Linton. Guilty pleas were entered by the two capital defendants who were charged in two murders. The two capital homicides involved the separate murders of two participants in a prior drug-related murder. All involved are black. Attorney General Reno required a capital prosecution as to Gist.

Haworth, Richard

D. NM CR No. 95-491 LH

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WM HM

Date of DP notice 2/14/1996

Haworth was the leader of a New Mexico drug trafficking conspiracy, during the course of which he murdered at least three individuals (two Hispanic, one Anglo). The government dropped its request for the death penalty in exchange for his plea and a life sentence on the eve of his scheduled trial in February, 1997. After six weeks of jury selection, the government accepted Spivey's guilty plea to a single homicide count and a 30-year sentence. Both Haworth and Spivey are white.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Mazzini, Marcos

D. NM CR No. 95-538-MV

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M **Victim R** BM HM

Date of DP notice 6/21/1996

seven RICO murders. The charges involve an L.A. gang, Sureno 13, moving crack and PCP from L.A. to Albuquerque. Among the seven murders connected to the gang one was of a high school student and another was a triple homicide. Mazzini was charged with four murders. Five attempted murders were alleged, as well as a conspiracy to kill rival black drug dealers. Authorization was requested and granted by the Attorney General in 1996, for four of six defendants, but the government later withdrew its request for the death penalty as to one, after he was shown to be uninvolved in one of the two homicides originally charged against him. The remaining three entered guilty pleas: Mazzini received 25 years; Najar received 30 years; and De LaTorre received 22 years.

Najar, Vincent

D. NM CR No. 95-538-MV

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M **Victim R** BM

Date of DP notice 6/21/1996

seven RICO murders. The charges involve an L.A. gang, Sureno 13, moving crack and PCP from L.A. to Albuquerque. Among the seven murders connected to the gang one was of a high school student and another was a triple homicide. Najar was charged with six murders. Five attempted murders were alleged, as well as a conspiracy to kill rival black drug dealers. Authorization was requested and granted by the Attorney General in 1996, for four of six defendants, but the government later withdrew its request for the death penalty as to one, after he was shown to be uninvolved in one of the two homicides originally charged against him. The remaining three entered guilty pleas: Mazzini received 25 years; Najar received 30 years; and De LaTorre received 22 years.

Spivey, Everett

D. NM CR No. 95-491

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M **Victim R** WM

Date of DP notice 2/14/1996

Haworth was the leader of a New Mexico drug trafficking conspiracy, during the course of which he murdered at least three individuals (two Hispanic, one Anglo). The government dropped its request for the death penalty in exchange for his plea and a life sentence on the eve of his scheduled trial in February, 1997. After six weeks of jury selection, the government accepted Spivey's guilty plea to a single homicide count and a 30-year sentence. Both Haworth and Spivey are white.

Williams, Robert Russell

E.D. VA No. 3:95CR45

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M **Victim R** BM

Date of DP notice 8/9/1995

two members of a drug ring, from Richmond, Virginia, African-American, 52 and 30 years old, charged with the distribution of heroin, mainly in one housing development in Richmond where another African-American was shot to death in 1994 by Damon, at co-defendant Williams' request. The government alleged numerous other homicides committed by Damon as Williams' enforcer. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. Damon agreed to plead guilty, attempted suicide and finally entered a plea. Williams pled guilty after a jury was seated.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Beckford, Devon Dale

E.D. VA CR No. 3:95CR00087

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 9/19/1997

another New York - Richmond cocaine connection was uncovered which involved members of a Brooklyn gang, all African-American, who transported crack cocaine to Richmond, Virginia. The 32-count indictment charged five of the alleged members of the so-called "Poison Clan" with capital murder in six killings, two in 1988 and four in 1994. (Devon Dale Beckford, 33, brother of Dean Beckford, identified by the FBI as a gang leader was not arrested until July, 1997. He was charged with three murders.) Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. After a seven-week trial, a jury declined to impose the death penalty on all four defendants: Dean Beckford, 32, Leonel Romeo Cazaco, 22, Claude Gerald Dennis, 28 and Richard Thomas, 22. Dean Beckford and Claude Dennis were found guilty of the 1998 double murder. (Dennis had previously been acquitted on these charges in state court in 1989.) Cazaco and Thomas were also convicted of a capital charge. Thomas had been acquitted in state court on the one homicide count on which he was convicted in federal court.

Bennett, Daniel Ray

C.D. CA CR No. 96-1140(A)-ER

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 3/27/1997

an African-American drug boss and a hitman, in this first Ninth Circuit case to be authorized for death penalty prosecution, Stanley was accused of hiring Bennett to murder a former member of Stanley's drug trafficking operation in Las Vegas, Nevada. Government court filings indicated that the murder conspiracy was monitored by wiretap. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. Both pled guilty. Attorney General Reno required a capital prosecution.

Cable, Donald Thomas

M.D. TN CR No. 3:96- 00004

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W

M

Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 2/27/1998

the 1995 killing of a federal grand jury investigation witness two days before her testimony. The female victim was in her early 40's and white, as are all the defendants. Cable was the triggerman who is said to have stabbed the victim to death. Dugger hired Cable after one David Day, the government's key witness, hired Dugger on behalf of a large-scale methamphetamine dealer, Tim Holloway. Dugger was in poor health (a recent liver transplant) and allegedly incompetent. Day received a 20 year sentence as a government witness.

Clary, Moses

D. NJ CR No. 96-576 (Rodriguez)

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R WF BM

Date of DP notice 10/29/1997

a 19-year-old African-American defendant with a history of intellectual disability was charged with complicity because his deceased co-conspirator shot a security guard during a robbery of an armed car in a suburban Camden, N.J. shopping mall. The male victim was black and seventeen. A white bystander, a 14 year old girl, was accidentally shot and killed by the security guard during the robbery. Clary accepted an offer of life in 1998, attempted to withdraw it, and was refused.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Cuff, John

S.D. NY CR No. 96 CR 515 (MJW)

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BF BM

Date of DP notice 12/11/1997

a CCE prosecution of the leaders of a drug organization which operated in the Bronx and Manhattan for a decade. Heatley, 43, ordered 14 homicides, admitting involvement in 13, ten of which were carried out by Cuff, who acted as Mr. Heatley's bodyguard and driver. Cuff had been a housing police officer from 1982 until 1986. Heatley pled guilty in return for a life sentence. On the 1999 trial date, Cuff also pled guilty. He also received a life sentence. Heatley has a serious history of crimes of violence, but was previously acquitted four times in state court trials.

Kaczynski, Theodore John

E.D. CA CR No. S-96-259

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 5/15/1997

the Unabomber case. The defendant faced capital indictments in two federal districts, Eastern District of California and District of New Jersey, for terrorist mail bombings over a period of 18 years. Three men were killed, in California and New Jersey, and 29 were injured, including one man whose arm was blown off and another who lost a hand. A plea was negotiated as opening statements were about to commence and after a BOP psychiatrist had confirmed defense experts' findings that the former Berkeley professor suffered from paranoid schizophrenia. Kaczynski tried, but failed, to withdraw his guilty plea. 2001 WL 114688 (9th Cir. 2001). He remains at ADX Florence.

Montanez, Ian Rosario

D. PR CR No. 96-001 (PG)

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 1/21/1997

the first death penalty case to be authorized in a Puerto Rico federal court. The Attorney General required a capital prosecution against the alleged triggerman in a bank robbery during which a security guard was killed and several bystanders injured. Montanez pled guilty in April 1998 to a life sentence.

Ortiz-Velez, Felix

M.D. PA CR No. 3-CR-96-005 (Rambo)

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 6/25/1997

two drug-related murders, one involving torture. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. Ortiz pled guilty to being an "enforcer," acting on the instructions of Mr. Otero, who also pled guilty. Otero's homicide counts were dismissed although both received life sentences, Otero on the drug case.

Otero, Julio

M.D. PA CR No. 3-CR-96-005

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 6/25/1997

two drug-related murders, one involving torture. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. Ortiz pled guilty to being an "enforcer," acting on the instructions of Mr. Otero, who also pled guilty. Otero's homicide counts were dismissed although both received life sentences, Otero on the drug case.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Stanley, Edward

C.D. CA CR No. 96-1140(A)-ER

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 3/27/1997

an African-American drug boss and a hitman. United States v. Daniel Ray Bennett and Edward Stanley (C.D. CA CR No. 96-1140(A)). In this first Ninth Circuit case to be authorized for death penalty prosecution, Stanley was accused of hiring Bennett to murder a former member of Stanley's drug trafficking operation in Las Vegas, Nevada. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. Government court filings indicated that the murder conspiracy was monitored by wiretap. Both pled guilty. Attorney General Reno required a capital prosecution.

Storey, Gregory

D. KS CR No. 96-40018-01-OES

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 10/18/1996

a white prison inmate who killed another white prisoner at the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth. Storey may have had Aryan Brotherhood ties. The death penalty was initially sought. However, the prosecution ended in a negotiated guilty plea to second degree murder in 1997. Storey was sentenced to 327 months, to run consecutive to sentences imposed in Nevada and Colorado. He subsequently was an unindicted co-conspirator in a 2002 nationwide Aryan Brotherhood RICO indictment in Los Angeles, in 2002, involving 40 reputed members and associates of the Aryan Brotherhood for a string of murders and violent attacks allegedly designed to expand the power of the white racist prison gang.

Walter, Abram

D. AK CR No. F96-026 (HRH)

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R NAF

Date of DP notice 2/20/1997

a white survivalist, charged with the robbery murder of a native Alaskan storekeeper whose remote outpost in a roadless Alaskan wilderness served as a U.S. Post Office. The Attorney General required a capital prosecution.

Frank, Deric

S.D. NY No. 97 CR 269 (DLC)

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BF

Date of DP notice 11/18/1997

domestic killing - a 1997 intrastate kidnaping of a (former) girlfriend. The defendants assaulted her and took her to the Bronx where she was burned alive in the trunk of her car. There were many orders of protection of the deceased due to repeated domestic violence complaints against Frank. Both the defendants, and the victim, 24, are black. Deric Frank was authorized for a federal capital prosecution, pled guilty and cooperated against Bailey. Bailey was sentenced to life in prison, but did not face the death penalty. Frank was sentenced to 25 years. All involved were African-American.

Heatley, Clarence

S.D. NY CR No. 96 CR 515 (MJW)

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM HM

Date of DP notice 12/11/1997

a CCE prosecution of the leaders of a drug organization which operated in the Bronx and Manhattan for a decade. Heatley, 43, ordered 14 homicides, ten of which were carried out by Cuff, a former policeman. Heatley pled guilty in return for a life sentence. On the 1999 trial date, Cuff also pled guilty. He also received a life sentence. Heatley has a serious history of crimes of violence, but was previously acquitted four times in state court trials.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Holland, Charles

N.D. AL CR No. 96-B-0208-NE

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W M

Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 11/14/1997

the 1991 killing of an informant in a drug conspiracy case who had been given a new identity and sent out of state. However, he returned and was spotted at a flea market in Ft. Payne. The drug ring boss, Marvin Holley, and Holland kidnaped (intrastate) the victim and killed him with a hammer. Holley's trial in 1998 resulted in a life sentence. All involved are white.

Lam, Tanh Huu

E.D. CA CR No. S 97-054-WBS

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

A M

Victim R AF

Date of DP notice 12/18/1998

the throwing of a Molotov cocktail through a dining room window. One victim, a 9 year old Asian female, was killed. Others were injured. The target was alleged to be a man who had an affair with Lam's wife. There were two cars seen at the time of the bombing/arson. Authorization for Lam was initially not sought or granted. The jury deadlocked at Lam's first trial. The government then produced a new individual who tape-recorded Lam talking about setting up another arson. The Attorney General Reno gave the go-ahead to seek the death penalty at a retrial, but a conditional guilty plea was entered. Federal jurisdiction is based on the happenstance that an apartment building was bombed. All involved were Vietnamese.

Reader, Arthur Charles

E.D. TX CR No. 5:97 CR 15

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

B M

Victim R BF

Date of DP notice none filed

the abduction of a 27 year old African-American female by her 35 year old African-American boyfriend in Texarkana, Texas. After crossing the line over into Texarkana, Arkansas, the victim was stabbed eighty four times, hit in the head with a brick and left to die. The defendant allegedly would not tell law enforcement officials where she was because he wanted her to die.

Wooldridge, Steven W.

W.D. AR CR No. 4:97 CR 40013-001

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W M

Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 1/5/1998

a Ft. Smith, Arkansas interstate kidnaping, sexual attack and murder. Wooldridge asked for directions from the female victim in her front yard in Texarkana, Arkansas. He then forced her into his vehicle and took her to a storage shed in Texas where he may have sexually assaulted her. Eventually, Wooldridge took his victim to another location and killed her. Wooldridge confessed, denying sexual assault. All involved are white.

Black, Douglas

D. CO No. 98-CR-196

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W M

Victim R WM

Date of DP notice none filed

two "super-max", Florence, Colorado inmates, who attacked two suspected snitches. One inmate, an ex-police officer, was murdered. Another inmate survived the attack. The stabbing was witnessed by prison staff who were assaulted when they tried to get Riddle off the victim. The United States Attorney did not seek permission to ask for the death penalty but the Attorney General required a capital prosecution. Riddle negotiated a 168 month sentence. Black agreed to plead to aggravated assault in return for a sentence of no more than 84 months. Black had a prior murder. Riddle had a record of crimes in and out of prison. Black's sentence was 78 consecutive months.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Holloway, Tim

M.D. TN CR No. 3:96-00004

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 2/27/1998

the 1995 killing of a federal grand jury investigation witness two days before her testimony. The female victim was in her early 40's and white, as are all the defendants. Cable was the triggerman who is said to have stabbed the victim to death. Dugger hired Cable after one David Day, the government's key witness, hired Dugger on behalf of a large-scale methamphetamine dealer, Tim Holloway. Dugger was in poor health (a recent liver transplant) and allegedly incompetent. Day received a 20 year sentence as a government witness.

Kauffman, Christopher

S.D. IA CR No. 97 Wolle

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WF

Date of DP notice none filed

two carjackings/murders, a bank robbery and inter-state flight by two young, white step-brothers. Two white women were murdered in their homes and their cars were used in the robbery of \$70,000 from a bank. Each brother was a triggerman. The United States Attorney and defense counsel negotiated plea agreements specifying life sentences shortly after the Attorney General Reno required a capital prosecution.

Llamas, Tamara

E.D. NC CR No. 7:97-CR-63-1-H

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W F Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 3/2/1998

a murder-for-hire of an informant in a marijuana conspiracy. Llamas, a white female, allegedly ordered the killing of a drug informant. The triggerman was Wakefield. The drug informant was carelessly named in a warrant, and was murdered a month later. The marijuana conspiracy involved North and South Carolina, Texas and Oregon.

McMahan, Jamie

S.D. IA CR No. 97 Wolle

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WF

Date of DP notice none filed

two carjackings/murders, a bank robbery and inter-state flight by two young, white step-brothers. Two white women were murdered in their homes and their cars were used in the robbery of \$70,000 from a bank. Each brother was a triggerman. The United States Attorney and defense counsel negotiated plea agreements shortly after the Attorney General required a capital prosecution.

Pena, Richard

E.D. LA CR No. 97-CR-145

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 8/20/1998

the prosecution of an alleged cocaine drug lord (Richard) and his brother (Jhonny), for eight murders. Richard Pena, a 32 year old, who became an American citizen in 1994, was a drug kingpin of a group that moved large amounts of cocaine and marijuana in Southeastern United States. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. This group involved numerous family members and a New Orleans police officer. Richard Pena was charged with eight homicides, four approved as capital counts by the Attorney General. Pena, himself, committed two of the murders, and ordered the death of the others. A non-capital co-defendant was an ex-police officer who arrested one victim in August of 1995 and delivered him to Pena and two associates. His remains were found two months later. Pena pled guilty and received a sentence of life without release.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Rausini, Walder Pierre

N.D. CA CR No. 95-0319- SI

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

H M

Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 3/1/1999

involves the murder of the head of a "Continuing Criminal Enterprise." Lance Estes, a 34 year old white male, had been involved in drug trafficking for many years and had taken over a CCE, whose head had gone to prison. Charged with involvement in this CCE, Estes worked out a deal as an informant for the government but continued to direct his drug enterprise. Rausini was alleged to be working as a "cook" in the Estes organization, converting methamphetamine into "ice." He ordered the murder of Estes in an effort to take over Estes' organization. A co-defendant shot Estes, whose body turned up after Labor Day 1995 in a dumpster in Oceanside with a single gunshot wound to the head. Rausini is also accused of ordering a second murder of another member of the of the CCE because of his plans to become a government informant. Another co-defendant was the killer in this murder. Rausini was 26 years old at the time of the murders with which he is charged and had no serious prior convictions. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. The government did not seek the death penalty against Rausini's codefendants. Rausini is a Brazilian. The victims are both white.

Riddle, Steven

D. CO No. 98-CR-196

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W M

Victim R WM

Date of DP notice none filed

two "super-max", Florence, Colorado inmates, who attacked two suspected snitches. One inmate, an ex-police officer, was murdered. Another inmate survived the attack. The stabbing was witnessed by prison staff who were assaulted when they tried to get co-defendant Riddle off the victim. The United States Attorney did not seek permission to ask for the death penalty but the Attorney General required a capital prosecution. Riddle negotiated a 168 month cap. Black agreed to plead to aggravated assault in return for a sentence of no more than 84 months. Black had a prior murder. Riddle had a record of crimes in and out of prison. Riddle was sentenced to 120 consecutive months.

Wakefield, Jimmy Ray

E.D. NC CR No. 7:97-CR-63-1-H

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W M

Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 3/2/1998

a murder-for-hire of an informant in a marijuana conspiracy. Llamas, a white female, allegedly ordered the killing of a drug informant. The triggerman was Wakefield. The drug informant was carelessly named in a warrant, and was murdered a month later. The marijuana conspiracy involved North and South Carolina, Texas and Oregon.

Abeln, Rick

S.D. IL CR No. 98-30022- WDS

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W M

Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 7/24/1998

the 1997 murder of Debra Abeln in East St. Louis, Illinois, in front of her 12 year old son. Richard Abeln and co-defendant Guy Westmoreland were indicted for conspiracy to distribute marijuana and cocaine, as well as the killing of Mrs. Abeln. Mr. Abeln confessed to hiring Deandre Lewis through Westmoreland to kill his wife. It was alleged that Mrs. Abeln was killed to cover up drug trafficking. Deandre Lewis has been identified as the gunman. Lewis' motivation was said to be a drug debt. Westmoreland was initially not authorized for a capital prosecution, but after Abeln's guilty plea, Westmoreland and Lewis were charged in a superseding capital indictment. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. All involved are Caucasian, except Lewis, who is African-American.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Rollack, Peter

S.D. NY CR No. S4 97 CR 1293

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M **Victim R** HM BM

Date of DP notice 1/28/1999

eight racketeering murders between 1994 and 1997 by a gang headed by Rollack called "Sex, Money and Murder" which later affiliated itself with "the Bloods." Rollack approved a Thanksgiving 1997 double killing and personally killed four others, including a witness to another homicide. One victim in the Thanksgiving shooting was thought to be a witness in a North Carolina drug enterprise prosecution against Rollack, but actually was not. Only Rollack was targeted, and authorized for, a federal capital prosecution. All involved were African-American, or Hispanic. On January 3, 2000, just before jury selection was to begin, the defendant entered a guilty plea in exchange for a life sentence. He was sent to "super-max," with severe restrictions on who he may communicate with.

Dean, Chris

D. VT CR No. 2:98M0021

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M **Victim R** WM

Date of DP notice 1/15/1999

a mail bomb which killed a 17 year old Vermont man and disfigured his mother. The bombing was motivated by an internet dispute involving the deceased's fraudulent behavior. All involved are white. The United States Attorney did not request that this be a capital prosecution, but the Attorney General required a capital prosecution. Main Justice disagreed. Both the defendant and his victim were white. Dean pled guilty in September of 1999 and was sentenced to life.

Santiago, Jose

S.D. NY CR No. 98-CR- 290

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M **Victim R** HM

Date of DP notice 2/4/2000

two- count RICO indictment charging murder in aid of racketeering. The defendants are members of the Latin Kings. Hector Colon put out a "terminate on sight order on the deceased." The victim had stabbed Colon after an argument over a girl. Santiago entered the victim's apartment alone, with a gun provided by another gang member, Angel Lugo, and shot the victim in front of his family, including two young children. Colon was killed in September of 1999 in a shootout with the FBI. The Attorney General required a capital prosecution against Santiago alone. The government first announced that Lugo (the superior who ordered the killing) would face the death penalty but decided to file a "notice" only as to Santiago. Santiago agreed to a 50 year sentence.

Chong, Richard Lee Tuck

D. HI CR No. 98-00416 ACK

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def A M **Victim R** OM

Date of DP notice 2/12/1999

a defendant originally indicted in the State of Hawaii for murder and various firearms violations. He fled the jurisdiction. A federal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. §924(j), use of a firearm to commit a drug related murder, was filed. The 47 year old Chong has a lengthy record of convictions for serious offenses and a violent prison record, including sodomy/assault with an ice pick and starting a fire. He had only been recently released when he allegedly shot the victim over a \$100 drug debt. The defendant is Asian and the victim is Hawaiiin. Chong entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to life in prison.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Lane, Robert | D. MD CR No. L-98-73

Guilty plea | Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R WM | Date of DP notice 3/30/1999

a series of carjackings, culminating in a murder where the 86 year old victim apparently resisted and was beaten with a hammer or lead pipe on the head and killed by Lane who had been released from prison after abducting a woman. Lane faced the death penalty.

Bullock, Joseph | E.D. VA No. 3:98CR150

Guilty plea | Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM | Date of DP notice 7/6/1998

another Richmond, multi-defendant, murder, drug conspiracy prosecution ... this one involving four murders in 1993 and 1994. Bullock was charged in three murders and was the only defendant who faced the death penalty. Hickman, Lightfoot and Weeks did not.

Valle-Lassalle, Victor Manuel | D. PR CR No. 97-284 (JAF)

Guilty plea | Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM | Date of DP notice 12/17/1998

a large scale drug conspiracy and two 1996 killings by Valle-Lassalle and one by the others in 1996. The second was a witness elimination -- the government witness was cut up with a machete. The United States Attorney requested permission to seek the death penalty only against Valle-Lassalle and Rodriguez-Marrero, and the Attorney General required that they also seek the execution of Nieves-Alonso and Pena-Gonzales. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. All involved are Hispanic. Valle-Lassalle received a 40 year sentence.

Glover, Cody | D. KS CR No. 98-10059-01-MLB

Guilty plea | Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R WM | Date of DP notice 11/2/1998

another Kansas Hobbs Act prosecution involving a robbery/murder in a convenience store. Glover, who is black, confessed to entering the store, demanding money and then attempting to execute the two white store clerks who did not resist, killing one employee and critically wounding a second. Co-defendant Mark Holley admitted he was to receive part of the robbery proceeds for being the getaway driver. Holley was not authorized for a capital prosecution but Glover faced the death penalty for use of a gun during a crime of violence, although the United States Attorney apparently did not request authority to seek Glover's execution. The Attorney General required a capital prosecution. Glover pled guilty in April 1999 and received a life sentence.

Kee, Charles Michael | S.D. NY CR No. 98-CR-778

Guilty plea | Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM | Date of DP notice 2/7/2000

a Bronx gang member who attempted to extort money to repay a debt by keeping a female juvenile hostage. A few days later, the girl's boyfriend was murdered by a juvenile in Kee's presence. Kee was a "Bloods" gang leader, organizing juveniles to commit crimes. The United States Attorney did not request permission to seek the death penalty, but the Attorney General required a capital prosecution.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Aiken, Ian Orville

S.D. FL CR No. 97-233-CR- GOLD

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

B M

Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 4/1/1999

rackeetering indictment against a gang known as the "Moscow Posse," who engaged in acts of violence, including murder, robbery, kidnapping, witness tampering, narcotics trafficking and extortion. Ian Aiken, the kingpin, and Oliver Lyons were accused of murdering Derrick Christian in New York City on October 27, 1995. Roland Aiken, Daniel Aiken and Eric Morris are accused of gunning down Desmond LaTouch in a Florida parking lot the next day, at Ian Aiken's request. Aiken was charged with two murders and alleged with other murders in aggravation. Aiken also faced state murder charges in Miami. (The Moscow Posse was being investigated by authorities since the massacre at the Taste of the Islands restaurant, where four people died and 18 others were wounded in a gang shootout in August of 1992.) It is alleged in aggravation that Aiken was involved in a total of four murders, an attempted murder, a burglary, a robbery and a kidnapping. There may have been as many as 15 homicides alleged. Only Aiken faced the death penalty.

Peoples, Cornelius

W.D. MO CR No. 00 CR 395

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

B M

Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 1/8/1999

a cross-racial murder of a federal government witness. Peoples, 24, conspired with co-defendant Lightfoot to prevent the victim from testifying at Lightfoot's federal trial on charges of bank robbery. Lightfoot contracted the killing of his roommate for becoming a government witness. The victim, 33, was found dead of gunshot wounds in his home in Kansas City. He contacted government witness, Anthony Hunter, who contacted Barfield who hired Haskell, the triggerman. Barfield did not face the death penalty and was acquitted. Haskell was sentenced to life in prison. All defendants are black. The victim is white. After Lightfoot was sentenced to life in prison, the government withdrew its request for the death penalty for Peoples. The Eighth Circuit reversed the convictions and the government again sought the death penalty. 250 F.3d 360 (2001). An appeal was rejected. 360 F.3d 892. Peoples entered into a plea agreement involving cooperation and was sentenced to 20 years, later reduced to 15 years.

Burgett, James Harold

W.D. TN CR No. 98-20160- G

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W M

Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 9/7/1999

a witness killing. Burgett killed his ex-wife because she helped authorities arrest him for making pornographic tapes of his 3 year old daughter. When Burgett found out she secretly tape-recorded him, he shot and killed Diane Wilcox and wounded his 18 year old step-daughter while on bail awaiting a 27 months prison term for child pornography. State capital charges were dismissed although Burgett pled guilty in a separate statutory rape state case. Both Burgett and Wilcox are white. Burgett pled guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.

Lawrence, Jonathan Huey

N.D. FL CR No. 3:98CR73 (RV)

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def

W M

Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 12/8/1998

an apparently motiveless murder on federal property, Outlying Field, a Naval Air Station helicopter training area. The defendants met while in a state prison mental health facility. The government's theory was that this was a thrill killing. Rodgers shot a man through a window a month later. He later plead guilty to assault. All parties are white. The Attorney General required a capital prosecution. Both Lawrence and Rodgers pled guilty in exchange for the government's agreement not to seek the death penalty. Both subsequently received the death penalty in state court after pleading guilty to shooting an 18 year old woman and cutting off a leg and storing it in a freezer. Both received life sentences in federal court for the murder of the state victim's intellectually disabled cousin. The two victims were found in shallow graves a few miles apart. Satanic and Klan material was found in the trailer the former mental patients shared.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Rodgers, Jeremiah Martel | N.D. FL CR No. 3:98CR73 (RV)

Guilty plea | Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WM | Date of DP notice 12/8/1998

an apparently motiveless murder on federal property, Outlying Field, a Naval Air Station helicopter training area. The defendants met while in a state prison mental health facility. The government's theory was that this was a thrill killing. Rodgers also shot a man through a window a month later. He later plead guilty to assault. All parties are white. The Attorney General required a capital prosecution. Both Lawrence and Rodgers pled guilty in exchange for the government's agreement not to seek the death penalty. Both subsequently received the death penalty in state court after pleading guilty to a separate incident involving a gun murder of an 18 year old woman and cutting off a leg and storing it in a freezer. 846 So.2d 440 (Fla. 2003); 2006 WL 1766734 (Fla.) Both received life sentences in federal court for the murder of the state victim's intellectually disabled cousin. The two victims were found buried in shallow graves a few miles apart. Satanic and Klan material was found in the trailer the former mental patients shared.

Gomez, Edsel Torres | D. PR CR No. 98-72

Guilty plea | Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM | Date of DP notice 10/26/1998

seven murders in a cocaine and heroin trafficking conspiracy. In the "Cayey Massacre," four men were tortured and murdered. Later, three other men were shot and killed in two incidents. Gomez, one of Puerto Rico's major drug dealers, agreed, in concert with another drug dealer, to eliminate various competitors who were trying to take over Gomez's market. Gomez was charged with four of the murders and was the only defendant authorized for a capital prosecution. Three co-defendants, including one accused of murders in 1991 and 1993, did not face the death penalty. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. All persons involved are Latino.

Nieves-Alonso, Heriberto | D. PR CR No. 97-284 (JAF)

Guilty plea | Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM | Date of DP notice 12/17/1998

a large scale drug conspiracy and two 1996 killings by Valle-Lassalle and one by the others in 1996. The second was a witness elimination -- the government witness was cut up with a machete. The United States Attorney requested permission to seek the death penalty only against Valle-Lassalle and Rodriguez-Marrero, and the Attorney General required that they also seek the execution of Nieves-Alonso and Pena-Gonzales. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. All involved are Hispanic.

Clemente, Louis | M.D. FL CR No. 98-436 CRT 26B

Guilty plea | Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM | Date of DP notice 8/11/1999

the murder of two suppliers to whom Clemente owed \$35,000 for methamphetamine. The government had initially sought the death penalty against Clemente, and had said they would seek the death penalty against the two shooters, only one (Hernandez-Miranda) of whom was arrested. Duran and Krammer claim they were outside when the shooters went into the victims' house. The shooters disposed of the bodies in an orange grove. Clemente allegedly provided the bleach to clean the house and paid the shooters, who fled. Duran has an assault conviction. Clemente has claimed that Duran, his uncle, is the main instigator of the murder.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Woody, Charles C.D. CA CR No. 99-84-AHM

Guilty plea Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M **Victim R** HM **Date of DP notice** 8/23/1999

one of three related Mexican Mafia cases. A previous case, involving 12 murders and attempted murders, United States v. Alex Aguirre, et al.(C.D. CA CR 95-345(A)-RSWL) was not prosecuted as a death penalty case. The Attorney General required a capital prosecution against Woody. One defendant in the previous was found not guilty and he is said to have been killed by Woody, 28, in a generational power struggle. Woody was also involved in several murder conspiracies.

Cooper, Carl Derrick D. DC CR No. 99-0266 (Green)

Guilty plea Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M **Victim R** WF WM BM **Date of DP notice** 2/14/2000

three charges of felony murder. Cooper, 29, confessed in writing to shooting three employees, 25, 24 and 18, in a failed robbery attempt of Starbucks Coffee Shop. Cooper claimed in his confession to police that he had a struggle with the shop's manager. She apparently was shot while attempting to flee after being unable to open the safe. Cooper was also arrested in connection with the 1996 wounding of an off- duty Prince George's County police officer during an attempted robbery. Cooper is black and two of the three victims are white. The government also alleged a 1993 armed robbery and murder of a security guard, three 1989 armed robberies, three 1996 armed robberies, a 1997 armed robbery, various conspiracies to rob and various shootings. Attorney General Reno required a capital prosecution.

Friend, Travis E.D. VA CR No. 3:99CR201

Guilty plea Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M **Victim R** AM **Date of DP notice** 10/1/1999

the carjacking of a Chinese truck driver, who was murdered by out-of- work African-American truckers, who wanted to make off with the truck and its cargo. A third brother, a juvenile, 15, as well as the mother and a girlfriend are also involved but did not face the death penalty. Both defendants pled guilty. Eugene may have been involved in a second homicide.

Friend, Eugene E.D. VA CR No. 3:99CR201

Guilty plea Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M **Victim R** AM **Date of DP notice** 10/1/1999

the carjacking of a Chinese truck driver, who was murdered by out-of- work African-American truckers, who wanted to make off with the truck and its cargo. A third brother, a juvenile, 15, as well as the mother and a girlfriend are also involved but did not face the death penalty. Both defendants pled guilty. Eugene may have been involved in a second homicide.

Carpenter, Robert L. W.D. TN CR No. 99-20155

Guilty plea at trial Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M **Victim R** WF **Date of DP notice** 1/5/2000

carjacking case in a suburb of Memphis. The victim was a 63 year old white female and the carjacking occurred "in broad daylight at noon" at a Sonic "drive-in." The defendants were 18 and 19 and African-American. A third, uncharged defendant was a juvenile. The Carpenter brothers plead guilty during jury selection. They were tried in Tennessee state court and sentenced to life in prison.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Carpenter, Antonio

W.D. TN CR No. 99-20155

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 1/5/2000

carjacking case in a suburb of Memphis. The victim was a 63 year old white female and the carjacking occurred "in broad daylight at noon" at a Sonic "drive-in." The defendants were 18 and 19 and African-American. A third, uncharged defendant was a juvenile. The Carpenter brothers plead guilty during jury selection. They were tried in Tennessee state court and sentenced to life in prison.

Kendall, Michael Robbie

N.D. MS CR No. 3:99CR102

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 6/8/2000

the murder of an Ole Miss senior accountancy major in 1999. Lowery was shot at Puskus Lake. Others were in the line of fire.

Llera-Plaza, Carlos Ivan

E.D. PA CR No. 98-362

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 7/23/2001

involves a Puerto Rico/Philadelphia cocaine connection between 1996-1998 and four murders for hire, three in Pennsylvania and one in Puerto Rico. Rodriguez allegedly ran the organization with a fugitive named Cacerez. Two victims were suspected of abducting a courier and stealing cocaine. A \$25,000 contract was offered but an innocent victim was mistakenly killed in Puerto Rico. One suspect was located in Philadelphia and two Hispanic males, ages 29 and 17, were killed. The 17 year old was an innocent victim, the high school student nephew of the target. Later, the second target was located and killed. Martinez-Acosta, 21, allegedly did the shooting in the first three, on orders of the alleged kingpin Rodriguez. Llera-Plaza was allegedly the middle-man in arranging the killings, the shooter in at least two and the driver. The triggerman in the fourth killing is cooperating. The government sought the death penalty against Rodriguez in four killings, Llera-Plaza in three and Martinez-Acosta in two. Attorney General Ashcroft approved plea agreements for Llera-Plaza and Martinez-Acosta, specifying life sentences. Judge Pollak then declared a mistrial for Rodriguez, who eventually entered into a plea agreement approved by Attorney General Ashcroft. All involved are Hispanic.

Rodriguez, Victor

E.D. PA CR No. 98-362

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 5/30/2000

involves a Puerto Rico/Philadelphia cocaine connection between 1996-1998 and four murders for hire, three in Pennsylvania and one in Puerto Rico. Rodriguez allegedly ran the organization with a fugitive named Cacerez. Two victims were suspected of abducting a courier and stealing cocaine. A \$25,000 contract was offered but an innocent victim was mistakenly killed in Puerto Rico. One suspect was located in Philadelphia and two Hispanic males, ages 29 and 17, were killed. The 17 year old was an innocent victim, the high school student nephew of the target. Later, the second target was located and killed. Martinez-Acosta, 21, allegedly did the shooting in the first three, on orders of the alleged kingpin Rodriguez. Llera-Plaza was allegedly the middle-man in arranging the killings, the shooter in at least two and the driver. The triggerman in the fourth killing is cooperating. The government sought the death penalty against Rodriguez in four killings, Llera-Plaza in three and Martinez-Acosta in two. Attorney General Ashcroft approved plea agreements for Llera-Plaza and Martinez-Acosta, specifying life sentences. Judge Pollak then declared a mistrial for Rodriguez, who eventually entered into a plea agreement approved by Attorney General Ashcroft. All involved are Hispanic.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Stayner, Cary

E.D. CA CR No. CR-F-00- 5217 AWI

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 2/10/2000

four homicides in two separate incidents in Yosemite National Park. Stayner, 37 and a motel handyman, confessed to the (intrastate) kidnapping, sexual assault and decapitation killing of a park naturalist. He also confessed to killing three sightseers, a mother and two teenage girls, five months earlier. There were initially arrests of ex- convicts for the killing of the sightseers. Stayner's brother was a highly publicized kidnap victim in 1972. All involved are white. He was sentenced to death in state court.

Furrow, Buford

C.D. CA CR No. 99-838 (A) -RAP

Guilty plea

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def W M Victim R AM

Date of DP notice 2/18/2000

hate crime murder - the racially motivated shooting and killing of an Asian (Filipino) postal worker in 1999. Furrow, 37 and Caucasian, is alleged to be a member of the Aryian Nation. He also walked into a Jewish Community Care Center and shot five people, including three children. Furrow then carjacked a Toyota. Furrow described this attack as "a wake up call to America to kill Jews."

Young, Donnell

M.D. TN CR No. 3:98-00038 (NIXON)

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 10/29/2002

a gang called the "Rollin" 90s Crips or Bangside 90s faction out of Los Angeles which allegedly moved 150 kilos of crack to Las Vegas. From there sales operations were allegedly set up in Oklahoma City and Nashville. The group has also been called the "Shakir Enterprise." A Crips gang member and his wife were killed in Oklahoma City, and their 3 year old daughter, who was also shot, stayed with her dead parents and slept with them at night for several days. Richard Chambers, 59, was shot to death in Cheatham County, Tennessee. There may have been up to 13 killings in three states. Three victims were themselves charged with murder in the indictment. The indictment charges Shakir, 25, with six killings from 1995-97, Payne, 20, with participating in two killings and in the shooting of the gang associate's 3-year-old-girl, and Young, 24, with helping kill one person and assaulting and torturing two others. Four of the killings were said to be to silence potential witnesses, other slayings were allegedly motivated by revenge. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. Payne was found to be incompetent to stand trial. After Shakir was sentenced to life improvement after a trial, Attorney General Holder approved a plea agreement and Young was sentenced to 40 years.

Satcher, Steve

D. MD CR No. AW00-0105

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BF

Date of DP notice 11/27/2000

domestic killing - the carjacking, interstate kidnapping and murder of the mother of Satcher's child. Satcher engaged the services of co-defendants Horton and Stancil for one-half kilogram of cocaine. They abducted the victim and took her from Maryland to North Carolina in the trunk of her car. She was strangled and beaten. Horton and Stancil doused the car with gasoline and ignited it. Murder for hire was alleged as an aggravating circumstance. All three defendants are African-American, as is the victim. Stancil cooperated. Attorney General Reno refused a request to seek the death penalty against Horton. Attorney General Ashcroft approved a plea agreement to a life sentence for Satcher

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Garcia, Rico

N.D. CA CR No. 00-CR-20018

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 10/20/2001

involves five Nuestra Familia murders including the 1998 RICO murder of another gang member in a war for control of the "Salinas regiment" of the Neustra Familia, a Latino prison gang. Garcia, 35, is charged as the triggerman in this killing. Two others were allegedly with him. Garcia was originally charged in state court and plead to other charges for a 22 year sentence in exchange for the state dropping the homicide. The prosecution involves shootings, assaults, robberies and drug dealing. Ramirez is charged in two killings, Garcia was charged in three and the other defendants one each. Attorney General Ashcroft required a capital prosecution for Garcia but eventually approved a guilty plea. All involved are Hispanic.

Pham, Trung Thanh

E.D. CA CR No. 00-CR-411

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def A M Victim R AM

Date of DP notice 4/11/2001

the throwing of a Molotov cocktail through a dining room window allegedly by Pham. One victim, Hien Tran, a 9 year old Asian female, was killed. Others were seriously injured. The target was a man who had an affair with co-defendant Lam's wife. Authorization for Lam was initially not sought or granted. The jury deadlocked at Lam's first trial. The government produced a new witness who said Lam ordered the firebombing. Attorney General Reno gave the go-ahead to seek the death penalty at a retrial, but a guilty plea was entered. Later, the government decided to seek the death penalty against Pham, who, along with two others, was allegedly paid to do the firebombing. Federal jurisdiction is based on the happenstance that an apartment building was bombed. Attorney General Ashcroft later approved a plea agreement with Trung Pham who received a life sentence with a possible Rule 35 reduction to 30 years. Tu Trong and Quac Pham did not face the death penalty. All involved are of Asian descent.

Lallamand, Sienky

N.D. IL CR No. 00 CR 143

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice none filed

Mr. Lallamand is accused under 18 U.S.C. §2232(a) with constructing a pipe bomb and delivering it to the victim who was married to a woman with whom Lallamand was having an affair. The defendant and the deceased are African-American. Lallamand defrauded the deceased of \$200,000 using the victim's identification. A plea agreement was reached but the defendant withdrew. Attorney General Ashcroft required a capital prosecution. Attorney General Ashcroft eventually approved a plea agreement specifying a life sentence. The victim was African-American.

Wilson, Bryant Lakeith

W.D. TN CR No. 01-20041-DV

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def B M Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 11/15/2001

bank robbery in which a 79 year old white woman was killed in front of her daughter. This was the last in a series of eight such heists from Houston to Memphis. The defendants are African-American. Attorney General Ashcroft required a capital prosecution against Wilson, but then approved a plea agreement specifying a life sentence, the same agreement reached in state court.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Shorter, Ramon Lori

W.D. TN CR No. 01-20041-DV

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def B M Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 11/15/2001

bank robbery in which a 79 year old white woman was killed in front of her daughter. This was the last in a series of eight such heists from Houston to Memphis. The defendants are African-American. The Attorney General approved a plea agreement specifying a life sentence, the same agreement reached in state court.

Jones, Milton

E.D. MI CR No. 01-80571

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 2/4/2003

involves a gang called the "Young Boys Inc.". Milton Jones, the alleged kingpin, is charged along with 13 others, including state representative Keith Stallworth, with laundering money. Jones wrote an autobiography, "Y.B.I." about his life of crime. Three defendants faced the death penalty. Jones is charged with three murders. Murder for hire is alleged as an aggravating circumstance. Canty and Mitchell are charged with killing another in '97. Canty is also charged in two other murders. Attorney General Ashcroft required a capital prosecution. All involved are African-American. Jones agreed to cooperate with government prosecutors in return for a 30 year sentence.

Millegan, Rufus Jerry, Jr.

D. MD CR No. 01-CR-367

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def B M Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 3/4/2002

the gun murder of a white woman by two black men at a secluded location on federal property, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (USDA). The victim was shot eleven times with two different types of ammunition. There are signed confessions by both defendants. Millegan confessed that he committed the murder, along with McClure, both shooting the victim with their weapons. McClure wrote that he told Millegan they should "press her" about a robbery of drugs from Millegan's apartment. The deceased was taken to a road on federal land in Beltsville, where both allegedly shot her. Attorney General Ashcroft required a capital prosecution. Millegan plead guilty. McClure declined to plead guilty and had a bench trial.

Rudolph, Eric Robert

N.D. AL No. 00-CR-422

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 12/11/2003

hate crime murders - law enforcement officer victim - two bombing murders including causing the death of a law enforcement officer in a 1998 Southside bombing of a Birmingham abortion clinic resulting in the death of an off-duty white police officer and severe injury to a white clinic nurse. Rudolph, who is white, was described by Attorney General Ashcroft as "America's most notorious fugitive." Rudolph was convicted of three bombings in Atlanta: the 1996 Olympic park bombing that killed a black woman and two other bombings in 1997. He was captured after a 5 year manhunt. Attorney General Gonzales approved a plea agreement specifying a life sentence.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Maxwell, William

W.D. TN CR No. 01-CR-20247

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R BF

Date of DP notice 9/19/2002

bank robbery resulting in the death of a black female employee of Union Planters Bank. A security guard was also shot in the face by Johnson, but survived. The defendants are African-American. Haynes was a shooter. The state and federal government both sought the death penalty against Haynes and Maxwell but not against Johnson who may be intellectually disabled. A federal jury sentenced Haynes to life imprisonment. After this verdict, Attorney General Ashcroft reversed his position and approved a plea agreement specifying a life sentence for Maxwell.

Skiba, Lawrence

W.D. PA 01-CR-291

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

W

M

Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 6/13/2003

an interstate mail fraud murder for hire, allegedly by a hitman in 2000. Skiba and his brother-in-law took out insurance policies on the victim in 1997. The United States alleges that Skiba was involved in two other suspicious deaths: a fatal fire at a hotel he owned in 1993 to collect insurance money and a 1998 suicide by an intellectually disabled man after Skiba allegedly gave him a gun. Also alleged is an unsuccessful attempt to kill a man in 2000, three days before his death to collect on a \$15,000 life insurance policy. Attorney General Ashcroft approved a plea agreement to testify against the shooter. Skiba was sentenced to 20 years. All involved are white.

Cisneros, Luis

D. AZ CR No. 03-CR-730

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

H

M

Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 12/22/2003

three RICO murders by a prison and drug gang, "the Cisneros Organization." Luis Cisneros and Alvarado are charged in all three murders, the others in two. A father and son were allegedly murdered six months apart by this Hispanic gang. The father was a suspected government witness/informant. 18 U. S. C. §924 and 1512. Numerous other murders, some of potential witnesses, are alleged as FRE 404(b) evidence. The least culpable were apparently Llamas and Alvarado, did not face the death penalty. The prosecution was moved from New Mexico to Arizona after an alleged courthouse security leak. Attorney General Gonzales approved a global plea settlement, a bi-product of a joint defense agreement, specifying Luis Cisneros, Eppinger and Rivera life sentences and Felipe Cisneros and Llamas concurrent terms with their state sentences plus two years. All involved are Hispanic.

Cisneros, Felipe N.

D. AZ CR No. 03-CR-730

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

H

M

Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 12/22/2003

three RICO murders by a prison and drug gang, "the Cisneros Organization." Luis Cisneros and Alvarado are charged in all three murders, the others in two. A father and son were allegedly murdered six months apart by this Hispanic gang. The father was a suspected government witness/informant. 18 U. S. C. §924 and 1512. Numerous other murders, some of potential witnesses, are alleged as FRE 404(b) evidence. The least culpable were apparently Llamas and Alvarado, who did not face the death penalty. The prosecution was moved from New Mexico to Arizona after an alleged courthouse security leak. Attorney General Gonzales approved a global plea settlement, a bi-product of a joint defense agreement, specifying Luis Cisneros, Eppinger and Rivera life sentences and Felipe Cisneros and Llamas concurrent terms with their state sentences plus two years. All involved are Hispanic.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Eppinger, Paul E.

D. AZ CR No. 03-CR-730

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

H M

Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 12/22/2003

three RICO murders by a prison and drug gang, "the Cisneros Organization." Luis Cisneros and Alvarado are charged in all three murders, the others in two. Additional murders were charged in aggravation against Eppinger and Rivera. A father and son were allegedly murdered six months apart by this Hispanic gang. The father was a suspected government witness/informant. 18 U. S. C. §924 and 1512. Numerous other murders, some of potential witnesses, are alleged as FRE 404(b) evidence. The least culpable were apparently Llamas and Alvarado, who did not face the death penalty. The prosecution was moved from New Mexico to Arizona after an alleged courthouse security leak. Attorney General Gonzales approved a global plea settlement, a bi-product of a joint defense agreement, specifying Luis Cisneros, Eppinger and Rivera life sentences and Felipe Cisneros and Llamas concurrent terms with their state sentences plus two years. All involved are Hispanic.

Rivera, Angel R

D. AZ CR No. 03-CR-730

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

H M

Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 12/22/2003

three RICO murders by a prison and drug gang, "the Cisneros Organization." Luis Cisneros and Alvarado are charged in all three murders, the others in two. Additional murders were charged in aggravation against Eppinger and Rivera. A father and son were allegedly murdered six months apart by this Hispanic gang. The father was a suspected government witness/informant. 18 U. S. C. §924 and 1512. Numerous other murders, some of potential witnesses, are alleged as FRE 404(b) evidence. The least culpable were apparently Llamas and Alvarado, who did not face the death penalty. The prosecution was moved from New Mexico to Arizona after an alleged courthouse security leak. Attorney General Gonzales approved a global plea settlement, a bi-product of a joint defense agreement, specifying Luis Cisneros, Eppinger and Rivera life sentences and Felipe Cisneros and Llamas concurrent terms with their state sentences plus two years. All involved are Hispanic.

Zapata, Jairo

E.D. NY CR No. 01-516

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

H M

Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 1/24/2003

Attorney General Ashcroft rejected a plea agreement and required a capital prosecution against a defendant from Columbia who had a signed cooperation agreement. Zapata is charged in one CCE drug-related murder for hire in 1993. Two separate homicides are alleged in aggravation, all three occurred during a seven month period in 1993. As he was announcing his resignation, Attorney General Ashcroft approved a plea to life in prison. He was sentenced to 30 years.

Ward, Israel

W.D. MO CR No. 3:02 CR 05025

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

B M

Victim R WF BM

Date of DP notice 8/7/2003

two gun murders during course of drug trafficking by black defendants from Tulsa selling crack in Tulsa. Smith is alleged to be a leader. A black victim allegedly stole drugs and was shot to death along with a white female who was with him at the time. Attorney General Ashcroft required a capital prosecution. Attorney General Gonzales approved a plea agreement with Ward.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Cassell, Kevin Thomas

W.D. VA CR No. 03-CR-13

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

B M

Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 7/15/2003

involves four defendants from D.C. who drove to Virginia with the intent to commit robbery. Cassell was the driver. Breeden is alleged to be the organizer, having lost his girlfriend's car payment while gambling. Carpenter allegedly held the victim, a drug dealer, at gunpoint. Carpenter shot the victim in the knee with a shotgun. Then Breeden allegedly stabbed the victim 7 times in the chest and neck. Outterbridge then shot the victim in the head. All involved are African-American, except the victims of a violent, but non-fatal, robbery of a white couple using an ATM that resulted in serious injury. The group also committed another robbery. Attorney General Ashcroft required a capital prosecution against Breeden, Carpenter and Cassell. Outterbridge, 19 and the youngest, is a cooperator. Breeden has a prior stabbing conviction. The district court rejected a claim that the notice of intent to seek the death penalty was filed too late. 2003 WL 22019060.

Benjamin, Terrance

E.D. LA No. 03-CR-274

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

B M

Victim R HM BM

Date of DP notice 10/19/2004

a drug gang conspiracy in the Cooper housing Projects charging four gun murders. The indictments charged two §924(j) murders and two §1959 RICO murders in 1997, 2000 and 2003. The 2003 victim was an innocent bystander person. Winston Gilmore was charged in two homicides, Cobbins, Washington, Simpson and Louis Gilmore are charged in one each. Benjamin is charged as the triggerman in three homicides and faced the death penalty. Louis Gilmore, Cobbins and Washington were sentenced to 300 months. Simpson, Winston Gilmore and Terrance Benjamin were sentenced to life in prison. All involved are African-American.

Stone, Samuel

E.D. CA No. 1:12-CR-00072-AWI-DLB

Guilty plea

Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def

NA M

Victim R NAM

Date of DP notice 11/22/2011

the 2003 stabbing death of a BOP inmate serving a life sentence, who was housed in SHU at USP Atwater by a cellmate serving a life sentence for a prior murder. Stone was also convicted of a second prior murder. Both are Native American but from rival tribes.

Massino, Joseph

E.D. NY CR No. 1:03-CR-00929-NGG

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def

W M

Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 11/12/2004

a 1999 RICO mob murder ordered by the Boss of the Bonanno crime family, Joseph Massino. DeFilippo and Spirito were also charged. The jury hung as to DeFilipo. Only Massino, who was convicted of seven murders in July of 2004, faced the death penalty. Attorney General Ashcroft required a capital prosecution shortly before his resignation, despite the fact that Massino was secretly cooperating with the government. Shortly after, Massino was allegedly told by the Acting Boss, Vincent Basciano, of a murder Basciano ordered and a plot to kill an Assistant United States Attorney. Subsequently, Massino was accepted as a cooperating witness and Attorney General Gonzales withdrew the death penalty request. All involved are white.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Le, Cuong Gia

E.D. VA CR No. 03-CR-48

Guilty plea

Name of AG Ashcroft

Race & gender of def A M Victim R AM

Date of DP notice 2/27/2004

a Vietnamese American gang (the "Oriental Playboys") member who came to the United States when he was 10 or 11 years old. Le is accused of multiple (two) RICO murders in a shooting involving rival gang members in a Vietnamese restaurant on May 13, 2001. He hit three people. One person died immediately and one died later. A rival gang member survived, identifying Le. Le fled and was arrested in July of 2003. Le was charged with intentionally killing another in aggravation. The court denied a motion to bar the death penalty due to a belated notice of intent. Attorney General Ashcroft eventually approved a plea agreement involving cooperation. Le also admitted involvement in an uncharged 1997 murder.

Shields, Sonny Adam

W.D. TN No. 2:04-CR-20254-BBD-tmp-4

Guilty plea

Name of AG Mukasey

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 8/28/2008

a 2004 carjacking and interstate kidnapping gun murder. Two males armed with a handgun abducted the victim from Memphis, Tennessee, at gunpoint and forced him into his 1995 Mitsubishi Diamante and fled the scene. The victim was taken to an ATM and forced to withdraw money. He was later found dead, shot and burned in Crittenden County, Arkansas. His vehicle was found burned in Memphis, Tennessee. Sonny Shields allegedly identified his cousin, Shannon Shields, as the person involved in the carjacking and kidnapping and as the person who shot the victim. He further allegedly identified Parker and Stafford as the males who assisted him in taking the victim to Arkansas and killing him. Shannon Shields received medical treatment for burns he received allegedly while setting the victim's vehicle on fire. Parker and Stafford also allegedly made statements that both Shannon Shields and Stafford were involved. Shannon Shields was found to be intellectually disabled. Thereafter, Attorney General Holder approved a plea agreement and a life sentence for Sonny Shields. All are African-American, as is the victim.

Becton, Charod

S.D. NY CR No. 1:02-CR-00451-MBM

Guilty plea

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BF HM

Date of DP notice 2/23/2005

three drug related murders. Becton and Henderson and two others, one of whom is cooperating with the prosecution and the other who committed suicide allegedly, went to rob some drug dealers. Inside the apartment were two males and one female. The female was the girlfriend of another drug dealer, but was also involved with Henderson. She let the defendants into the apartment. Once inside, it is alleged that the defendants bound and gagged the occupants, including the female, tortured them until they revealed where the drugs were stashed and then stabbed them to death. Before leaving, it is alleged that the defendants left the gas on in the apartment where candles were lit, in an attempt to blow the apartment up and cover their tracks. Becton was allowed to plead guilty shortly before trial by Attorney General Gonzales. Henderson was acquitted of the murders.

Diaz, Edgar

N.D. CA No. 05-00167 (WHA)

Guilty plea

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BF BM

Date of DP notice 7/7/2006

a seven RICO murder prosecution against eight members of a San Francisco drug (crack, marijuana, Ecstasy) trafficking gang, the Down Below Gangsters. The indictment alleged five 2004 killings, including a double murder, one murder in 2003 and another in 2005. Diaz, Johnson, Fort and Calloway are charged in three murders, Rollins in two, Ellis, Milburn and Jackson in one. There are two uncharged homicides. Diaz and Fort agreed to plead guilty and receive a 40 year sentence, but Attorney General Mukasey rejected Fort's plea agreement. Later, a plea to a life sentence was approved. All involved are African-American.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Covarrubius, Javier

C.D. CA No. 05 CR 578

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HF

Date of DP notice 6/28/2006

law enforcement officer victim - three RICO murders by the "Vineland Boys" (VBS) drug gang formed in the 1980's by a San Fernando Valley football team. One of it's founding members was murdered in 1999. The VBS pays taxes to the Mexican Mafia. Covarrubius, Ledesma and Sandoval are charged in one 2003 murder and Robledo and David Garcia are charged in two 2003 murders. The government alleges the murder of a police officer and a 16 year old girl who was a witness against a gang member. Four attempted murders were charged. Attorney General Gonzales required a capital trial. Robledo, Covarrubius and Ledesma entered guilty pleas on the 4th day of jury selection. All involved are Hispanic.

Ledesma, Jose

C.D. CA No. 05 CR 578

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HF

Date of DP notice 6/28/2006

law enforcement officer victim - three RICO murders by the "Vineland Boys" (VBS) drug gang formed in the 1980's by a San Fernando Valley football team. One of it's founding members was murdered in 1999. The VBS pays taxes to the Mexican Mafia. Covarrubius, Ledesma and Sandoval are charged in one 2003 murder and Robledo and David Garcia are charged in two 2003 murders. The government alleges the murder of a police officer and a 16 year old girl who was a witness against a gang member. Four attempted murders were charged. Attorney General Gonzales required a capital trial. Robledo, Covarrubius and Ledesma entered guilty pleas on the 4th day of jury selection. All involved are Hispanic.

Robledo, Raul

C.D. CA No. 05 CR 578

Guilty plea

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HF

Date of DP notice 6/28/2006

law enforcement officer victim - three RICO murders by the "Vineland Boys" (VBS) drug gang formed in the 1980's by a San Fernando Valley football team. One of it's founding members was murdered in 1999. The VBS pays taxes to the Mexican Mafia. Covarrubius, Ledesma and Sandoval are charged in one 2003 murder and Robledo and David Garcia are charged in two 2003 murders. The government alleges the murder of a police officer and a 16 year old girl who was a witness against a gang member. Four attempted murders were charged. Attorney General Gonzale required a capital trial. Robledo, Covarrubius and Ledesma entered guilty pleas on the 4th day of jury selection. All involved are Hispanic.

Friend, Valeri

S.D. WV CR No. 2:05-00107

Guilty plea

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def W F Victim R WF

Date of DP notice 8/16/2006

a 2005 gun murder-for-hire of a cooperating witness/informant in a drug (cocaine) prosecution. Lecco asked Burton, who asked Friend to help kill the female victim who was shot and beaten to death and buried in a shallow grave. Attorney General Gonzales required a death penalty prosecution. Lecco and Friend were sentenced to death at a joint trial but a new trial was granted by the trial judge when the government revealed that a juror was under federal investigation for child pornography. 634 F.Supp.2d 633 (SD WV 2009). Friend entered into a plea agreement approved by Attorney General Holder and testified against Lecco, who was sentenced to life in prison at a retrial. Friend received 35 years. All involved are white.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Moreira, Juan

D. MD No. 8:05 CR 00393-DKC

Guilty plea

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 5/8/2007

five RICO gun murders by members of the Langley Park clique of MS-13 gang, including the murder of a potential government witness by Argueta, Guillen and Palacios, a 2003 double murder, various attempted murders and a gang rape of two women. Bernal is charged in two murders and the others in one. Villatoro and Canales were not charged in federal court. Villatoro received a life sentence in state court. There are three additional uncharged related murders. Moreira was implicated in one. All involved are Hispanic.

Amador, Jorge

D. MD No. 8:05 CR 00393-DKC

Guilty plea

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 5/8/2007

five RICO gun murders by members of the Langley Park clique of MS-13 gang, including the murder of a potential government witness by Argueta, Guillen and Palacios, a 2003 double murder, various attempted murders and a gang rape of two women. Bernal is charged in two murders and the others in one. Villatoro and Canales were not charged in federal court. Villatoro received a life sentence in state court. There are three additional uncharged related murders. Amador is implicated in one 2005 murder. Attorney General Holder authorized a plea agreement specifying 30 years. All involved are Hispanic.

Fort, Emile

N.D. CA No. 05-00167 (WHA)

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 10/3/2006

a seven RICO murder prosecution against eight members of a San Francisco drug (crack, marijuana, Ecstasy) trafficking gang, the Down Below Gangsters. The indictment alleges five 2004 killings, including a double murder, one murder in 2003 and another in 2005. Diaz, Johnson, Fort and Calloway are charged in three murders, Rollins in two, Ellis, Milburn and Jackson in one. An innocent child, a seven week old baby, was killed by a stray bullet. There are two uncharged homicides. Diaz and Fort agreed to plead guilty and receive a 40 year sentence, but Attorney General Mukasey rejected Fort's plea agreement. Later, during trial, Attorney General Holder approved a plea agreement, specifying 41 years, just before opening statements. All involved are African -American.

Hanner, Claron Levi

W.D. PA No. 2:05-CR-00385-TFM

Guilty plea

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def B M Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 12/29/2006

involves a contract gun murder of a 53-year-old father of a jailed witness who was cooperating (and due to testify the next day) against Solomon. Hanner rang the doorbell and shot the witness's father when he answered the door. Solomon hired Hanner who dropped his cellphone near the scene of the murder. Hanner pled guilty and testified against Solomon. The victim is white, with five children. Solomon and Hanner are African-American.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Petzold, Michael Alan

D. ND CR No. 3:05-CR-00101-RRE

Guilty plea

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def

H M

Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 12/19/2006

a drug-related (methamphetamine and marijuana) conspiracy in North Dakota, Washington, Minnesota, Nebraska and California and a 2005 CCE gun murder. All involved as Hispanic. Petzold, a "manager" for the Arandas drug organization, allegedly assisted the shooter and was present. Only Petzold was authorized. He entered into a plea agreement approved by Attorney General Gonzales, who did not authorize a capital prosecution against the others: Arandas, Martinez and Wessels.

Brown, Jarvis

S.D. IN EV06-CR-0014-01-Y/H

Guilty plea

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def

B M

Victim R WF BM

Date of DP notice 6/22/2007 and 6/26/2007

four gun murders, including the killing of a government witness, and eight other shootings in eleven days in 2005. The defendants robbed and murdered an Evansville drug dealer. Later, a woman who was with them who was gunned down on the street because the defendants suspected she was an informant. Jordan and Brown were charged in all four murders, Weems in three. Jordan and Brown faced the death penalty. Weems agreed to testify against them. Later, Jordan entered into a plea agreement. All involved are black, except the female witness victim, who was white. Attorney General Mukasey approved a plea agreement specifying a life sentence, but Brown declined to enter a plea. Subsequently, he changed his mind and the plea was accepted.

Cooya, Shawn

M.D. PA No 4:08-CR-70

Guilty plea

Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def

NA M

Victim R NAM

Date of DP notice 7/30/2009

a BOP inmate killing at FCC Allenwood allegedly motivated because the victim was converting to Christianity. The stabbing murder is on videotape. All involved are Native-American. Attorney General Holder required the United States Attorney to seek the death penalty as to both and rejected plea agreements for Cooya (25 years) and Williams (20 years), who has a prior second degree murder conviction.

Williams, Ritz

M.D. PA No 4:08-CR-70

Guilty plea

Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def

NA M

Victim R NAM

Date of DP notice 7/30/2009

a BOP inmate killing at FCC Allenwood allegedly motivated because the victim was converting to Christianity. The stabbing murder is on videotape. All involved are Native-American. Attorney General Holder required the United States Attorney to seek the death penalty as to both and rejected plea agreements for Cooya (25 years) and Williams (20 years), who has a prior second degree murder conviction.

Jordan, Gabriel

S.D. IN EV06-CR-0014-01-Y/H

Guilty plea

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def

B M

Victim R WF BM

Date of DP notice 6/22/2007

four gun murders, including the killing of a government witness, and eight other shootings in eleven days in 2005. The defendants robbed and murdered an Evansville drug dealer. Later, a woman who was with them who was gunned down on the street because the defendants suspected she was an informant. Jordan and Brown were charged in all four murders, Weems in three. Jordan and Brown faced the death penalty. Weems agreed to testify against them. Later, Jordan entered into a plea agreement. All involved are black, except the female witness victim, who was white. Attorney General Mukasey approved a plea agreement. Jordan was sentenced to 28 years.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Alers-Santiago, Raymond | D. PR No. 06-368 (JAF)

Guilty plea | Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def H M | Victim R HM | Date of DP notice 2/6/2007

a carjacking murder. The victim was stabbed and beaten and then drowned. The judge dismissed the notice of intent to seek the death penalty because case was authorized without defendants being afforded opportunity to develop and present information during the authorization process. The First Circuit reversed. 522 F.3d 150 (1st Cir. 2008). Attorney General Mukasey authorized a plea pursuant to a cooperation agreement. All involved are Hispanic.

Talik, Eugene J., Jr. | N.D. WV No. 5:06-CR-51

Guilty plea at trial | Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def W M | Victim R WF | Date of DP notice 12/29/2006

interstate domestic strangulation murder for hire of a single white female with children by a 38 year old white trucking supervisor and his accomplice.

Aquart, Azikiwe | D. CT 3:06CR160 (PCD)

Guilty plea | Name of AG Mukasey

Race & gender of def B M | Victim R BF BM | Date of DP notice 1/29/2009

a triple murder of a rival in the drug business, his girlfriend and a visitor, who were bound and gagged and bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat by leaders of a Jamaican drug gang. All the defendants and victims are black. The Aquart brothers faced the death penalty. Johnson, who is cooperating, did not.

Rico, Jose Rios | D. AZ No. 05-0272-PHX-JAT

Guilty plea | Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def H M | Victim R WF | Date of DP notice 8/6/2006

drug (meth) related contract gun murder of a white woman suspected of being a government witness by an Hispanic. Attorney General Gonzales required a capital prosecution. Attorney General Mukasey approved a plea agreement.

Taylor, Donald Scott | D. NM No. 07-1244

Guilty plea | Name of AG Mukasey

Race & gender of def W M | Victim R WM | Date of DP notice 7/17/2008

an Aryan Brotherhood 2005 drug-related (methamphetamine) RICO gun murder for hire of an elderly (71 years of age) rancher. Taylor was involved in a previous botched WalMart robbery. He stabbed a guard while awaiting trial. All involved are white. Attorney General Holder approved a plea agreement on the verge of trial.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Baker, Antoine Demetris

E.D. AR No. 4:06 CR 00041 GTE

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Gonzales

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R

BM

Date of DP notice 8/8/2007

a drug-related witness murder. Baker was involved in a crack cocaine conspiracy and was arrested on a state robbery charge. He was visited at the local jail by two individuals and instructed them to kill the robbery victim who was shortly murdered. The killer, Baker's cousin, Mario Dedman, was prosecuted in state court, convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. A third accomplice, Willie Lee Davis, Jr., was indicted in this case with Baker, pled guilty and was sentenced to life imprisonment. All involved are black. Baker was serving a 50 year sentence for another murder. Attorney General Holder approved a plea agreement during jury selection.

Tisdale, Jason

D. KS No. 07-10142

Guilty plea

Name of AG Mukasey

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R

BF BM

Date of DP notice 6/2/2008

four RICO and drug-related murders by the Crips gang. Tisdale was charged in three murders, a double homicide in 1998 and another in 2004. Campbell was charged in one 2006 murder. All involved are African-American.

Andrews, Patrick

N.D. WV No. 1:12-CR-00100-IMK-JSK

Guilty plea

Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R

BM

Date of DP notice 9/15/2011, NOI 10/23/2012

a BOP inmate murder at USP Hazelton on videotape by two defendants. Andrews is serving consecutive 37 years to life sentences out of D.C. for two prior murders. Bellinger, also from D.C., is serving a life sentence for assault with intent to kill. Attorney General Holder rejected a plea agreement to manslaughter and 15 years. Attorney General Holder rejected a second offer to plead guilty to second degree murder and 30 years. Eventually, Andrews offered to plead to a life sentence, which was accepted in the final weeks before trial. Bellinger did not face the death penalty. He also received a life sentence after a non-capital trial. All involved are African-American.

Wade, Joshua

D. AK No. 3:07-CR-00111-RRB-JDR All

Guilty plea

Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def

W

M

Victim R

WF

Date of DP notice 4/30/2009

a carjacking gun murder and robbery of a female next door neighbor. Wade stole the victim's car and used her ATM card. He was acquitted in 2003 of a prior 2000 homicide charge. All involved are white. Attorney General Holder approved a plea agreement specifying a life sentence. Wade was also sentenced to life in prison in state court.

Atwater, DeMario James

M.D. NC No. 1:08-CR-00384-JAB

Guilty plea

Name of AG Mukasey

Race & gender of def

B

M

Victim R

WF

Date of DP notice 2/13/2009

carjacking gun murder and ATM robbery of the popular University of North Carolina student body president. The co-defendant Lovette is a juvenile and not eligible for the death penalty. Lovette is accused of an earlier murder of a Drake University graduate student. The victim was allegedly kidnapped from her home and forced to withdraw money from ATMs before being shot to death. The government claims that Atwater shot the victim with a shotgun after Lovette had shot her four times with a handgun. Atwater is black, the female victim white.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Leon Guerrero, James | E.D. CA No. 08 CR 00259

Guilty plea | Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def | H | M | Victim R | HM | Date of DP notice | 4/7/2009

law enforcement officer victim - the stabbing death of a BOP Hispanic prison guard at Atwater by two inmates. The killing is on videotape. Co-defendant Sablan is suspected of being involved in a prior correctional officer murder. The victim was a 22 year old military veteran who served two tours in Iraq. He was chased down and tackled by Sablan and stabbed by Guerrero with an eight inch ice pick type weapon. Leon Guerrero is from Guam. Sablan is from Saipan. This was Attorney General Holder's first decision to "authorize" a case.

Sablan, Joseph Cabrerar | E.D. CA No. 08 CR 00259. change to C.D. CA No. 2:14-

Guilty plea | Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def | H | M | Victim R | HM | Date of DP notice | 4/7/2009

law enforcement officer victim - the stabbing death of a BOP Hispanic prison guard at Atwater by two inmates. The killing is on videotape. Sablan is suspected of being involved in a prior correctional officer murder. The victim was a 22 year old military veteran who served two tours in Iraq. He was chased down and tackled by Sablan and stabbed by Guerrero with an eight inch ice pick type weapon. Leon Guerrero is from Guam. Sablan is from Saipan. This was Attorney General Holder's first decision to "authorize" a case.

Jacques, Michael | D. VT No. 2:08-CR-117

Guilty plea | Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def | W | M | Victim R | WF | Date of DP notice | 8/25/2009

2008 kidnapping, rape and murder by Jacques of his 12 year old niece. All involved are white.

Watland, Gary | D. CO No. 1:11-CR-00038-JLK

Guilty plea | Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def | W | M | Victim R | WM | Date of DP notice | 3/1/2011

a 2008 murder of a BOP inmate at USP Florence by a convicted murderer with an escape conviction. Watland was sentenced to 25 years in Maine for murder and 35 years for an attempted escape. The victim was stabbed in the neck. All involved are white.

Millner, John Travis | E.D. KY No. 7:13-CR-15-ART

Guilty plea | Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def | B | M | Victim R | BM | Date of DP notice | 10/3/2013

a BOP inmate homicide of a cellmate at USP Big Sandy, with a prison-made ice pick and by strangulation. Millner was convicted of a previous murder in Washington, DC and an attempted murder of another inmate in Virginia. He was already serving a life without release sentence. Both are African-Americans.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Taylor-Keller, Lorie Ann

W.D. VA No. 5:10 CR 00015

Guilty plea

Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def W F Victim R WF WM

Date of DP notice 12/29/2011

interstate domestic gun and arson triple murders of three; an ex-husband of Lorie Keller, his new wife and her five year old child. They were shot and the house burned. All involved are white.

Pleau, Jason W.

D. RI No. CR 10 184-015

Guilty plea

Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def W M Victim R WM

Date of DP notice 6/18/2012

Hobbs Act gun murder of the manager of a gas station. The governor of Rhode Island refused to release the defendant to federal authorities but was ordered to do so. 680 F.3d 1 (1st Cir.). Pleau served 13 years in prison before the murder for violent crimes including assault on a prison guard. All involved are white, except Santiago who is Hispanic.

Lopez, Enrique

N.D. TX No. 3:09-CR-320-M

Guilty plea

Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 7/28/2010

Lopez was involved in five bank robberies, one of which resulted in the shooting/murder of a Brinks driver outside a bank. The robberies, including the shooting, are on videotape. Lopez is charged as the shooter. The co-defendant, Sandoval, is Lopez's brother in law. Both defendants and the victim are Hispanic.

Montgomery, Chastain, Sr.

W.D. TN No. CR 11-20044

Guilty plea

Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def B M Victim R WF BF

Date of DP notice 3/8/2013

two cross-racial 2010 gun murders, by a former prison guard, of two female postal workers by a father and his 18 year old son. The son was killed in a police shootout following a carjacking four months later. Montgomery and one victim are black. The other victim is white.

Williams, Connell C.

W.D. OK No. 5:11-CR-298

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Holder

Race & gender of def B M Victim R BM

Date of DP notice 4/17/2012

child abuse §1111 murder on a military base (Fort Sill). A nine year old boy was starved to death. He weighed 41 pounds at the time of his death. All involved are African-American.

Authorized Federal Capital Prosecutions Which Resulted in a Guilty Plea - 6/24/2016

Acosta, Wilfredo Martinez

E.D. PA CR No. 98-362

Guilty plea at trial

Name of AG Reno

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HM

Date of DP notice 5/30/2000

a Puerto Rico/Philadelphia cocaine connection between 1996-1998 and four murders for hire, three in Pennsylvania and one in Puerto Rico. Rodriguez allegedly ran the organization with a fugitive named Cacerez. Two victims were suspected of abducting a courier and stealing cocaine. A \$25,000 contract was offered but an innocent victim was mistakenly killed in Puerto Rico. One suspect was located in Philadelphia and two Hispanic males, ages 29 and 17, were killed. The 17 year old was an innocent victim, the high school student nephew of the target. Later, the second target was located and killed. Martinez-Acosta, 21, allegedly did the shooting in the first three, on orders of the alleged kingpin Rodriguez. Llera-Plaza was allegedly the middle-man in arranging the killings, the shooter in at least two and the driver. The triggerman in the fourth killing is cooperating. The government sought the death penalty against Rodriguez in four killings, Llera-Plaza in three and Martinez-Acosta in two. Attorney General Ashcroft approved plea agreements for Llera-Plaza and Martinez-Acosta, specifying life sentences. Judge Pollak then declared a mistrial for Rodriguez, who eventually entered into a plea agreement approved by Attorney General Ashcroft. All involved are Hispanic.

Aranda-Soto, Noe

S.D. TX No. 6:10-CR-00095

Guilty plea

Name of AG Lynch

Race & gender of def H M Victim R HF HM

Date of DP notice 11/19/2015

six deaths associated with an illegal immigrant smuggling ring. The case was charged under 18 U.S.C. §1203(a), paying someone to seize another resulting in death. Five immigrants died in the Fall of 2012. The sixth homicide involves a 924(c)(j) gun charge. Aranda-Soto was traveling in a car with two female co-conspirators. He started shooting wildly, wounding one. The other jumped from the car and was run over by a tractor trailer. All involved are Hispanic.