

County men imprisoned for distribution of drugs

Four men with Oakland County ties have been sentenced in federal court in Detroit to prison terms for their part in a conspiracy to distribute illegal drugs from a medical clinic in the Cass Corridor in Detroit. Two doctors, a pharmacist, and a former medical clinic owner were sentenced Jan. 7 in federal court in Detroit to prison terms on multiple convictions of racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, unlawful distribution of controlled substances, Medicaid fraud, mail fraud, conspiracy and Medicaid kickbacks, according to U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Markman.

The sentences imposed by United States District Judge Barbara K. Hackett were as follows:

Dr. Carol Sims Robertson, M.D., age 43, of Southfield, — 12 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Dr. Roger Morrell, M.D., age 66, of Lathrup Village — 78 months in prison without parole.

Gerald Najor, registered pharmacist, age 43, of Bloomfield Hills — 12 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Reginald Roquemore, former clinic owner, age 44, of Detroit (formerly of West Bloomfield) — 10 years in prison, without parole, and a \$10,000 fine.

The defendants were convicted by a jury on Aug. 8, after a three-month trial in federal court, according to assistant U.S. attorneys Wayne F. Pratt and Janice V. Terbush, who prosecuted the case.

THE DEFENDANTS' SENTENCES arose from their involvement in the Second Selden Medical Clinic, a now-defunct enterprise that operated in the Cass corridor area of De-

troit from 1982 until June of 1988.

The evidence at trial established that the so-called medical clinic was a "sham" where controlled substances, particularly Tylenol with codeine, were illegally distributed to 'drug addicts and pill dealers,' Markman said.

In order to obtain controlled substances, the "patients" would have to submit to unnecessary medical tests, including blood tests, which would then be fraudulently billed to the Medicaid program.

The Second Selden Medical Clinic used various cooperating pharmacies to carry out this illegal scheme, including Selden Drugs, which was owned and operated by defendants Najor and Dennis McAlpin, 40, a registered pharmacist who was then living in Warren. McAlpin was also sentenced to 12 years in prison and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine.

During the time Selden Drugs serviced the clinic, from 1982 until January of 1986, at least 300,000 dosage units of controlled substances were illegally distributed from Sel-

den Drugs alone, Markman said. More than one million dosage units were distributed during the course of the offense. The court found that the Medicaid fraud exceeded \$2 million over the course of the conspiracy.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Hackett said that the defendants, who had no prior criminal record, have abused a position of trust and have injured the very patients they were trained and licensed to help. She stated that it was impossible to count all of the victims of this offense.

Others sentenced in the case are: Richard Maurer, registered pharmacist, of Redford Township — 12 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Greg Balte, registered pharmacist, age 41, of Redford — 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Markman commended the Drug Enforcement Administration Division Investigation Unit, for its lengthy and thorough investigation of this case. The DEA was assisted by the Michigan Department of Social Services.

County geneologists utilize U.S. census data

The Oakland County Genealogical Society will present a program about using the federal census for research. Entitled, "Federal Census Records and Beyond," the program features past president Jim Jackson. The program is open to the public

without charge. It will be at 7 p.m. on Feb. 4 in the Rotary Room of the Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill, in Birmingham.

Additional information is available at 257-3193.

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