



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
District of Maryland



Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney

Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer

36 South Charles Street
4th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091

Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov

February 20, 2009

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**Contact AUSA VICKIE E. LEDUC or
MARCIA MURPHY at (410) 209-4885**

**BALTIMORE FELON EXILED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A GUN**

Baltimore, Maryland - U.S. District Judge Catherine C. Blake sentenced Robert Simmons, age 26, of Baltimore, today to 15 years in prison followed by three years of supervised release for illegal possession of a gun by a convicted felon, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Blake enhanced Simmons' sentence upon finding that he was an armed career criminal, based upon four previous convictions for resisting arrest and drug offenses.

According to his guilty plea, on May 23, 2007, Simmons was the passenger in a car stopped by members of the Baltimore City Police and ATF in the area of Oakley and Queensbury Avenues in northwest Baltimore. Officers recovered a .38 caliber revolver next to Simmons on the seat. Simmons admitted that the gun belonged to him.

"We will continue our tireless efforts to put armed career criminals behind bars," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Theresa R. Stoop, "and keep them out of our communities where law abiding citizens deserve to live and work."

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy and Assistant State's Attorney David Grzechowiak, the Baltimore Police Department Organized Crime Division and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution. Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant United States Attorney Melanie Glickson, who prosecuted the case along with him.