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Clerk, U.S. Courts
District of Montana
Missoula Division

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
MISSOULA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

GERALD CHRISTEN MILLER,
AARON LADD CHARLTON,
JAMIE LEE MAKI,
ARTHUR RAY PEOPLES,
TROY DEAN SIMPSON,
MICHAEL JAMES STOREY,
JOSEPH FREDERICK PLOYHAR,
and JADE TAYLER BUDD,

Defendants.

CR 26- 8 -M- DLC

INDICTMENT

CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE AND
TO POSSESS WITH THE INTENT TO
DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE
(Count 1)

Title 21 U.S.C. § 846

Title 21 U.S.C. § 851

(Penalty: Mandatory minimum 10 years to
life imprisonment, \$10,000,000 fine, and at
least five years of supervised release)

(Penalty for Maki, Peoples, and Ployhar:
Mandatory minimum 15 years to life
imprisonment, \$20,000,000 fine, and at
least 10 years of supervised release)

	POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE (Count 2) Title 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) Title 21 U.S.C. § 851 Title 18 U.S.C. § 2 (Penalty: Mandatory minimum 10 years to life imprisonment, \$10,000,000 fine, and at least five years of supervised release) (Penalty for Maki, Peoples, and Ployhar: Mandatory minimum 15 years to life imprisonment, \$20,000,000 fine, and at least 10 years of supervised release) DISTRIBUTION OF METHAMPHETAMINE (Count 3-4) Title 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Penalty for Count 3: Mandatory minimum 10 years to life imprisonment, \$10,000,000 fine, and at least five years of supervised release) (Penalty for Count 4: Mandatory minimum 10 years to lifetime imprisonment, \$8,000,000 fine, and at least eight years of supervised release) CRIMINAL FORFEITURE Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 853(a)(1) and (2) TITLE 21 PENALTIES MAY BE ENHANCED BY PRIOR DRUG- RELATED FELONY CONVICTIONS
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THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

COUNT 1

That beginning in or before May 2024 and continuing until in or about June 2025, at or near Missoula, within Missoula County, in the State and District of Montana, the State of Washington, and elsewhere, the defendants, GERALD CHRISTEN MILLER, AARON LADD CHARLTON, JAMIE LEE MAKI,

ARTHUR RAY PEOPLES, TROY DEAN SIMPSON, MICHAEL JAMES STOREY, JOSEPH FREDERICK PLOYHAR, and JADE TAYLER BUDD, knowingly and unlawfully conspired with each other, and with other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to distribute and to possess with the intent to distribute, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), 500 grams or more of a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846.

COUNT 2

That beginning in or before May 2024 and continuing until in or about June 2025, at or near Missoula, within Missoula County, in the State and District of Montana, the State of Washington, and elsewhere, the defendants, GERALD CHRISTEN MILLER, AARON LADD CHARLTON, JAMIE LEE MAKI, ARTHUR RAY PEOPLES, TROY DEAN SIMPSON, MICHAEL JAMES STOREY, JOSEPH FREDERICK PLOYHAR, and JADE TAYLER BUDD, knowingly and unlawfully possessed, with the intent to distribute, 500 grams or more of a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), and aided and abetted the same, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2.

COUNT 3

That on or about January 7, 2025, at or near Milltown, within Missoula County, in the State and District of Montana, and elsewhere, the defendant, AARON LADD CHARLTON, knowingly and unlawfully distributed 50 grams or more of actual methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1).

COUNT 4

That on or about January 30, 2025, at or near Missoula, within Missoula County, in the State and District of Montana, and elsewhere, the defendant, ARTHUR RAY PEOPLES, knowingly and unlawfully distributed five grams or more of actual methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1).

NOTICE PURSUANT TO 21 U.S.C. § 851

Before the defendants JAMIE LEE MAKI and JOSEPH FREDERICK PLOYHAR committed the offenses charged in counts 1 and 2 of this indictment, defendants MAKI and PLOYHAR each had one final conviction for a serious drug felony for which each defendant served more than 12 months of imprisonment, and for which each defendant was released from serving any term of imprisonment related to that offense within 15 years of the commencement of the instant offense.

Before the defendant, ARTHUR RAY PEOPLES committed the offenses charged in counts 1, 2, and 4 of this indictment, defendant PEOPLES had one final conviction for a serious drug felony for which he served more than 12 months of imprisonment, and for which he was released from serving any term of imprisonment related to that offense within 15 years of the commencement of the instant offense.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS

1. Upon conviction of either offense set forth in counts 1 and 2 in this indictment, the defendants, GERALD CHRISTEN MILLER, JAMIE LEE MAKI, TROY DEAN SIMPSON, MICHAEL JAMES STOREY, JOSEPH FREDERICK PLOYHAR, and JADE TAYLER BUDD, shall forfeit, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(a)(1) and (2): (1) any property constituting and derived from any proceeds obtained, directly and indirectly, as a result of the commission of said offense; and, (2) any property used and intended to be used, in any manner and part, to commit, and facilitate the commission of, said offense.

2. Upon conviction of any offense set forth in counts 1, 2, and 3 in this indictment, the defendant, AARON LADD CHARLTON, shall forfeit, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(a)(1) and (2): (1) any property constituting and derived from any proceeds obtained, directly and indirectly, as a result of the commission of said

offense; and, (2) any property used and intended to be used, in any manner and part, to commit, and facilitate the commission of, said offense.

3. Upon conviction of any offense set forth in counts 1, 2, and 4 in this indictment, the defendant, ARTHUR RAY PEOPLES, shall forfeit, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(a)(1) and (2): (1) any property constituting and derived from any proceeds obtained, directly and indirectly, as a result of the commission of said offense; and, (2) any property used and intended to be used, in any manner and part, to commit, and facilitate the commission of, said offense.

A TRUE BILL.

Foreperson signature redacted. Original document filed under seal.

FOREPERSON

For 
KURT G. ALME
United States Attorney


CYNDEE L. PETERSON
Criminal Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney