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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 7, 2010
Re: James Lee
Conviction for Possession of Heroin
and Cocaine

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that James Lee, age 59, of Modesto, was convicted after a three-day jury trial of possessing heroin and cocaine, possessing heroin for purposes of sale, and resisting arrest. After trial, the defendant admitted allegations against him that he had previously been convicted of drug sales and that he had previously served three separate terms in prison. Deputy District Attorney Wendell Emerson prosecuted the case for the People.

On July 18, 2009, Lee was contacted by police, who tried to search Lee pursuant to his probationary search terms. Lee fled from the police. Officers chased Lee and eventually wrestled with him to the ground before he was arrested. Lee was found to be in possession of heroin and cocaine base (crack cocaine). On August 11, 2009, after observing Lee engage in 'hand to hand' transactions consistent with drug sales, an undercover officer from the Modesto Police Department drug unit attempted to buy heroin from Lee. Lee agreed to sell heroin to the undercover officer and was arrested. Lee was found to have heroin possessed for sale, cash and packaging material for heroin on him at the time of his arrest.

The Honorable Linda McFadden scheduled a sentencing hearing for January 25, 2010. Lee faces a maximum sentence of 14 years and 4 months in state prison.

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