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The men professed their innocence, but a number took plea deals for a lesser sentence after France was convicted and sentenced to ten years in prison. Federal prosecutors, however, refused to admit the men were innocent, instead stating that the evidence was too tainted to support their convictions. They had been incarcerated for 26 months since their November 2005 arrests. The seventeen wrongly convicted Mansfield defendants were incarcerated for a total of about 35 years.

### Fall-out from the Mansfield frame-ups

Lucas was considered a DEA "star" before the frame-ups in Mansfield were exposed. Before being based in Cleveland, he was assigned to the DEA office in Miami, Florida and had worked for the DEA in Bolivia. A private investigator in Miami provided special prosecutor Teitelbaum with a summary of his investigation into Lucas's work in Florida. Lucas's tactics are described as "questionable and unethical" in some of the Florida cases. Teitelbaum was also provided a 2003 FBI report that federal prosecutors in Cleveland told FBI investigators they were concerned that Lucas had lied in past cases.

"Absolute power corrupts absolutely, and the war on drugs has done nothing but create an Orwellian power structure in which the innocent are only deemed so by the guilty."

Comment on Cleveland *Plain-Dealer* website in response to a May 13, 2009 article about Lee Lucas' indictment.

Bray pled guilty in 2007 to two counts of perjury and five counts of deprivation of civil rights he committed during Operation Turnaround. He was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison. He will begin serving that sentence after he completes an 11-year state sentence for shooting a man during a Cleveland drug deal.

Charles Metcalf pled guilty on May 14, 2009 to one misdemeanor count of violating the civil rights of Nabors. Metcalf, 46, is a 14-year veteran of the Richland County Sheriff's Department. He falsely testified during Nabors July 2006 trial that the drug buy allegedly involving Nabors was not videotaped. He also testified, as did Lucas, that Nabors bought the drugs. When the surveillance video of the "transaction" surfaced, it clearly showed Nabors was not the buyer. Metcalf's plea agreement was sealed, and he faces a maximum of one-year in prison during his sentencing scheduled for November 5, 2009.

Lucas was indicted by a federal grand jury in Cleveland a day before Metcalf pled guilty. The 18-count indictment charges Lucas with perjury, making false statements and violating the civil rights of three people. The indict-



Lee Lucas

ment alleges Lucas failed to monitor Bray, he concealed evidence from federal prosecutors, he lied in testimony given during two trials, and he made false and misleading statements in his internal DEA reports that summarized details of Operation Turnaround. Lucas' trial is scheduled for January 2010.

Lowestco Ballard was one of the people arrested by Lucas who was acquitted after a trial. When told by a reporter that Lucas had been indicted, Ballard exclaimed, "Are you serious? Is this for real? I can't believe it. It's wonderful how the inconsistencies finally came out."

White, 58, was appointed a U.S. Magistrate in Detroit in February 2008. He has described himself as essentially being duped into authorizing the Mansfield prosecutions. Prior to being appointed the U.S. Attorney for northern Ohio in 2003, White was the Lorain County, Ohio prosecutor for 22 years. White oversaw the prosecutions of Nancy Smith and Joseph Allen, whose 1994 child rape convictions in Lorain were overturned in June 2009 after 15 years of wrongful imprisonment. (See p. 6 in this issue.)

As of September 2009 at least nine federal civil rights lawsuits have been filed as a result of Operation Turnaround. The lawsuits allege malicious prosecution and violation of constitutional rights by the defendants, who include Richland County, the Richland County Sheriff's Department, and several officers.

#### Sources:

DEA snitch Jerrell Bray says he decided to come clean, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, July 30, 2007.  
Fallout continues from informant's confession, *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*, October 16, 2007.  
Struggles Await 15 Men Freed In Tainted Mansfield Drug Case, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, February 3, 2008.  
DEA Agent Lee Lucas indicted on perjury, civil rights charges; pleads not guilty, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, May 13, 2009.  
Deputy Charles Metcalf, who worked with DEA agent Lee Lucas, pleads guilty to lying at drug trial, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, May 14, 2009.  
Lawsuits spring from bungled drug probe, *Mansfield News Journal*, May 21, 2009.  
Lee Lucas' credibility is subject of subpoenaed records from three defense attorneys, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, June 1, 2009.

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## Jerrell Bray Claims Lee Lucas Agreed To Use DEA For Bray's Personal Revenge

When Jerrell Bray told federal public defenders about how he and Lee Lucas framed innocent people for drug deals in Mansfield, Ohio during Operation Turnaround, he also explained how he wound up working with Lucas in Mansfield.

In 1991 the 18-year-old Bray, Michael Frost and Dennis Kliment made a drug deal for cocaine that they discovered was sugar. When they confronted the people who ripped them off, a gunfight erupted. Bray was wounded, Kliment was killed, and Frost fled uninjured.

Bray pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter in Kliment's death, but he didn't reveal Frost's identity. He made a deal with Frost that he would take the fall alone if Frost looked out for Bray's family. Bray didn't think Frost kept his end of the bargain, so when he was paroled in 2004 he wanted to get revenge on Frost.

In early 2005 Bray and Lucas crossed paths in Cleveland. The two men and a Cleveland police officer assigned to a DEA task force agreed to a deal. Lucas and the officer would 'do whatever it takes' to get Frost off the street in exchange for Bray agreeing to assist them in arranging drug deals.

Frost was arrested after Bray set-up a buy of \$3,200 worth of crack from him. In August 2005 DEA Special Agent Robert Cross filed an affidavit describing the crack cocaine ring led by Frost. The details mainly came from Bray. Frost pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine and was sentenced to 11-years in prison.

Bray held up his end of the bargain with Lucas by framing innocent people in Mansfield during Operation Turnaround.

#### Source:

DEA snitch Jerrell Bray says he decided to come clean, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, July 30, 2007.

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