



Blagojevich to serve sentence in Colorado prison

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 8:56 AM February 15, 2012

Chicago Tribune on February 15, 2012 released the following:

“By Annie Sweeney and Andy Grimm
Tribune reporters

Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich will serve his 14-year sentence at a federal prison in Colorado as he had sought, sources said Tuesday.

Blagojevich, who is due to report to prison by March 15, received word from federal prison officials in recent days that he will be assigned to a low-security prison near the Denver suburb of Littleton in the foothills of the Colorado Rockies, the sources said.

U.S. District Judge James Zagel, who sentenced the former governor in December, agreed to recommend to prison officials that Blagojevich do his time at the Colorado prison, known as Federal Correctional Institution Englewood.

The former governor hopes to enroll in a substance-abuse program at the prison, which could shave off up to a year of his sentence.

Blagojevich’s legal team had requested he be sent Englewood, which has a reputation for being less crowded and violent than other facilities in the federal system. There also is an adjacent work camp, which offers more freedom of movement for prisoners and which Blagojevich could transfer to at some point while serving out his sentence.

Local political figures familiar with the federal prison system were divided on the wisdom of Blagojevich’s choice.

Lawrence Warner, a co-defendant of Blagojevich’s predecessor, convicted Gov. George Ryan, served most of his 18-month sentence at the work camp at Englewood.

Englewood gets high marks from inmates for its location. The area is surrounded by lakes and golf courses, and the more than 300-acre compound is wooded and filled

with wildlife, all framed by distant Rocky Mountains, Warner said.

But only inmates of the camp get to enjoy the majestic setting, he pointed out.

Inmates in the low-security prison, which was built in the 1930s, don’t get to work on the grounds as the camp inmates do. Their time outdoors is limited to an hour or so per day.

“When I was there, I saw eagles, I saw coyotes. It was just beautiful,” Warner said. “He’s not going to get that. He’s going to see it maybe through a window or the prison yard.

“I don’t know why he wanted to go to (the prison) at Englewood. There are prisons in the system that are newer and nicer.”

Perhaps more important, unlike many prisons, Englewood is located in the suburbs of a major city—and a major airport, with more frequent, affordable flights than a penitentiary in a remote, rural setting, pointed out Scott Fawell, another Ryan co-defendant.

Fawell requested assignment to a federal prison in Yankton, S.D., spending most of his 52-month sentence there, along with shorter stints at prisons in Terre Haute and the spartan Metropolitan Correctional Center in downtown Chicago.

“I’ve seen a bit of what the federal prison system has to offer,” Fawell said. “Most of the guys I knew (that were familiar with Englewood) said it was nice.

“It beats being in the middle of cornfields. Most places where they build prisons are not nice. They’re (dumps).”

Fawell said his wife spent more than \$20,000 on travel to and from Yankton, which typically included a flight into Omaha, a car rental, a two-hour drive to Yankton and an overnight hotel stay. Littleton, just south of Denver, would be far easier to get to for Blagojevich’s family to visit.

“If I’d had it to do over, maybe I would have stayed there. But I didn’t even know where Yankton was. I didn’t do much research,” Fawell said. “I assume

(Blagojevich) did his research.”

Blagojevich’s preference for Englewood, and the duration of his sentence, might be a hint that the former governor’s family is considering moving from their Ravenswood home to Littleton, Fawell suggested. The area is far more cosmopolitan than most prison towns, with decent schools.

“When you’re going away as long as he is, that would be something to think about,” Fawell said.

The flamboyant former governor will become the most famous resident, though Englewood also houses disgraced Enron executive Jeffrey Skilling. Prison staff tend to take a hard line with high-profile inmates, especially early in their sentence, Fawell said. Being in an area where the staff will know less about him might mean he gets a little kinder treatment, Fawell said.

Getting his wife, Patti, and two daughters away from the media scrutiny in Chicago might also be better for the Blagojevich family, Fawell offered.

“But you never get away from Chicago media entirely,” Fawell said. “The problem is... there’s always someone in with you from Chicago, and no one really cares what’s on TV at noon, so someone always puts on the WGN news at noon.””

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write and/or report extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

The author of this blog is Douglas McNabb. Please feel free to contact him directly at mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com or at one of the offices listed above.

Pennsylvania Dairy Farmer Operator Found in Violation of Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 10:34 AM February 15, 2012

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania awarded

summary judgment to the government on a finding that Daniel Allgyer, dba Rainbow Acres Farm and Rainbow Valley Farms, violated the Food, Drug and

Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Services Act, the Justice Department announced today.



Justice Department Settlement Requires Gunnison Energy and SG Interests to Pay the United States a Total of \$550,000 for Antitrust and False Claims Act Violations

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 12:09 PM February 15, 2012

The department reached a settlement with Gunnison Energy Corporation, SG Interests I Ltd. and SG Interests VII Ltd. that requires the companies to pay a total of \$550,000 to the United States for antitrust and False Claims Act violations related to natural gas leases sold at auction by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

Justice Department Resolves Sexual Harassment Lawsuit Against the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 3:41 PM February 15, 2012

The Department of Justice announced today the filing of a consent decree with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (LDPSC) that resolves allegations of sexual harassment of an office administrator in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1946, as amended (Title VII).

U.S. v. Dominic Leung

(Antitrust Division: Criminal Case Filings)

Submitted at 2:54 PM February 15, 2012

Document filed on February 9, 2012

- [Information](#)

U.S. Marshal Auction Raises \$146,100 Dollars for Victims and Law Enforcement Efforts

(U.S. Marshals Service News)

Submitted at 12:37 PM February 15, 2012

February 14, 2012 - The U.S. Marshals Service in Albuquerque, New Mexico auctioned off over 20 government surplus and seized vehicles. The vehicles were seized by local and federal agencies and the proceeds will help support law enforcement activities in the Albuquerque area. Over 150 private citizens registered for the auction and a total of \$145,000 dollars was raised.

Alabama Man Pleads Guilty to Selling Anhinga Feathers

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 4:07 PM February 15, 2012

Alexander D. Alvarez of Atmore, Ala., pleaded guilty in federal court today to violating the Lacey Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) for illegally selling and possessing the feathers of anhingas and other migratory birds protected under the MBTA.

Barrio Azteca Gang Leader Sentenced in Texas to Life in Prison

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 11:35 AM February 15, 2012

Roberto Angel Cardona, aka "Little Angelillo," of El Paso, Texas, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone in the Western District of Texas, El Paso Division.

U.S. v. Hilton Wong

(Antitrust Division: Criminal Case Filings)

Submitted at 3:07 PM February 15, 2012

Document filed on February 9, 2012

- [Information](#)

U.S. Marshals Arrest Alleged Sexual Predator

(U.S. Marshals Service News)

Submitted at 12:39 PM February 15, 2012

February 14, 2012 - Deputy U.S. Marshals and Task Force Officers assigned to the U.S. Marshals led Arizona WANTED Violent Offender Task Force arrested Robert Franz at a truck stop near 339th Ave and Van Buren Rd in Buckeye. Franz was wanted by the Pampa, TX Police Department for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child.

Alleged Child Predator Arrested on Reservation

(U.S. Marshals Service News)

Submitted at 12:38 PM February 15, 2012

February 14, 2012 - The U.S. Marshals Service in Farmington arrested Julian Marty Perea in Dulce, NM. Perea was wanted by the State of Arizona on a Grand Jury indictment charging Perea with several counts including intentionally or knowingly engaged in sexual intercourse or oral sexual contact with a victim under the age of 15 years.