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PRESS RELEASE

MAN ACCUSED IN INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONSPIRACY ACQUITTED

53 year old man freed from jail after 16 months following 2 ½ week trial

Southfield, November 13, 2008: On October 23, 2008, an Oakland County jury returned a stunning verdict finding Tonin Prendi, 53, not guilty on all counts in a drug conspiracy case in which Prendi along with 3 others faced up to life in prison, Neil Rockind, P.C. reported. Neil Rockind represented Prendi and was moved to tears at the jury's verdict:

"For sixteen months, Tonin was locked away in the Oakland County Jail awaiting trial on a case that had he been convicted would've resulted in a lengthy prison sentence. Either Tonin would have died in prison due to his age and the length of the sentence or had he survived by some miracle, he would have been deported to Albania an old, frail man. I am thrilled that the jury exonerated and acquitted him. Just thrilled."

The charges against Prendi and four others were part of multi-jurisdictional task investigation involving police agencies from the state of Illinois, the state of Michigan, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, local police departments in Michigan suburbs, the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In the case, Prendi, along with four others, were accused of conspiring to traffic 12 kilograms of cocaine to Canada in exchange for truckloads of marihuana that would be imported to the United States and sold across the region. The state of Michigan listed nearly a hundred witnesses as potential witnesses along with thousands of pages of police reports, records, tape recorded phone calls, etc. At one point, one of the co-defendants even turned "state's evidence" and agreed to testify against all of the co-defendants, including Prendi.