

2017 DALLAS CLE FACT SCENARIO

In June 2016, after striking up a Shiner Bach fueled conversation with a local ne'er-do-well at a marina down at the reservoir, task force officer Tag Yorette (Tag) made an under cover purchase of one ounce of methamphetamine from Cooper Sinjin-Snitch (CS, a.k.a. Snitch) out in the parking lot of the marina. The ounce (28 grams) field tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine and was later determined to be 95% pure methamphetamine.

Snitch begged Tag not to arrest him and swore he could give Tag some bigly dealers. Tag cut a deal for Snitch to work off his case. Snitch identified four sources of supply and another 20 people he was selling to on a weekly basis. Accordingly to the information provided by Snitch, he was acquiring as much as 10 kilos of methamphetamine a month from these four different suppliers and selling it among these 20 different customers. He usually would acquire between one-half to two pounds from one of these four sources and would sell the meth in amounts ranging from an ounce to a half pound. Snitch identified one of his sources as Johnny "Skeeter" Mescado (Skeeter). Snitch told Tag that he's been getting between a half pound up to a pound of meth from Skeeter every week for about two years. (At a half pound/week that equals 22 Kilos of meth over two years). The ounce that Tag bought from Snitch in June 2016, was bought by Snitch from one of the other sources, not Skeeter.

Tag spends the next ten months getting undercover officers introduced to Snitch's four sources and making purchases from them. He even gets some undercover purchases from about ten of Snitch's customers. During that time, the undercover officers buy a total of 10 kilos from three of Snitch's four sources, but they are never able to set up a transaction with Skeeter. Tag is convinced Skeeter is out there selling (Skeeter has two previous felony possession with intent to distribute convictions out of Dallas County). Tag wants to get some hand-to-hand transactions with Skeeter before he presents this case to the AUSA for indictment.

Before that happens, Skeeter gets pulled over by the Dallas PD for failing to signal a lane change. As the cops were following Skeeter, waiting for him to commit a lane change violation, they ran his license plate. The vehicle came back registered to Skeeter. Dispatch also advised that Skeeter was a convicted felon. Before the car was stopped, the cops saw Skeeter make a "furtive movement" that, based on their training and experience, looked exactly like Skeeter was placing a gun under the passenger seat. Once the car was stopped Skeeter was removed from the car and the officers conducted a protective sweep, finding a loaded Mac 10 with a large capacity magazine under the front passenger seat. Skeeter was arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Upon being booked into jail, the police found a plastic baggie containing approximately one ounce of methamphetamine in Skeeter's front pocket.

The AUSA accepted prosecution of the case and a three count indictment was returned against Skeeter, alleging the following:

Count One – possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 841 and punishable under 8 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(C) (0-20 years).

Count Two – possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)

Count Three – felon in possession of a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(e)

Skeeter has two prior convictions for violations of the Texas offense of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. He received probation on the first conviction which was later revoked and he was sentenced to 5 years TDC. The second conviction was the basis of his probation revocation and he received a sentence of 5 years on that conviction, to run concurrent with the revoked probation.

Skeeter has one prior conviction for a Texas burglary of a habitation for which he got three years TDC

Skeeter has one prior conviction for the Texas offense of robbery for which he was sentenced to three years.

YOU GET APPOINTED TO REPRESENT SKEETER

The AUSA and the Task Force Officer want Skeeter to cooperate in the investigation of a methamphetamine organization they have been investigating for ten months. Skeeter does the honorable thing and tells the Agents that the 28 grams were his personal stash and he got it from a guy named Cooper Sinjin-Snitch. The Agents tell Skeeter he's lying and leave the interview room.

Two weeks later a 13 defendant indictment is handed down and 10 out of the 13 defendants sign on to cooperate with the government. Three of the cooperating co-defendants claim they purchased meth at some point from Skeeter.