

OFFICE OF THE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Feb. 28 2011

Subject: Conviction on Drug Charges

**Visalia Man Convicted of Transporting Heroin, Possessing
Methamphetamine and Providing False Information to a Peace
Officer**

Contact: District Attorney Paul Gallegos

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Prosecuting Deputy District Attorney: Jeremiah Ross

On Friday, February 25, 2011, a Humboldt County jury convicted Richard Castleman, 44, of Visalia, of transporting heroin, possession of methamphetamine, and falsely identifying himself to a peace officer.

Castleman was being investigated by the Eureka Police Department for selling controlled substances and violation of parole. On July 6, 2010, Officer Justin Braud of the Eureka Police Department approached Castleman and a female companion in the parking lot of Walgreens on Broadway in Eureka because he noted suspicious activity. Though Castleman initially provided a false identity, Braud recognized him from a booking photograph and eventually confirmed him as Richard Castleman. He then placed Castleman under arrest for parole violations. Castleman was searched at the time of his arrest and found to possess almost a half ounce of individually packaged heroin and .5 grams of methamphetamine.

On Monday Feb. 28, the Honorable Marilyn Miles conducted a court trial regarding the defendant's prior convictions. The Judge found the defendant had suffered five separate prior prison terms, including 3 strikes. The defendant now faces 25 years to life in the state prison and is due to be sentenced on March 24, 2011 by Judge Miles.

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The case was successfully prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jeremiah Ross.