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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 26, 2010**

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**On March 25, 2010, a jury convicted Richard Lee Sovereign, Jr., 54, of possession of methamphetamine for sale. The bifurcated portion of the trial concluded on March 26, 2010, at which time the Honorable Dale A. Reinholtsen found to be true alleged special allegations relating to Mr. Sovereign's 2003 convictions for transportation of methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine for sale. Sentencing is set for April 22, 2010, at which time Mr. Sovereign faces up to nine years in prison, six years of which are mandatory, due to the prior convictions.**

**In the early morning hours of July 18, 2009, Eureka police, acting on information that Mr. Sovereign was selling methamphetamine out of Jan's Pub, contacted Mr. Sovereign at the establishment, where Mr. Sovereign worked part-time as a bouncer. Mr. Sovereign was arrested for an unrelated penal code violation and searched prior to being placed inside a patrol vehicle. During this search, Eureka police Sergeant Steven Watson located a large sum of cash and methamphetamine that appeared to be packaged in a manner consistent with sales.**

**Jan's Pub closed shortly after Mr. Sovereign's arrest.**

**The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Ben McLaughlin.**