



**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
SENECA COUNTY**

DEREK W. DeVINE

71 S. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE #1204 · TIFFIN, OHIO 44883
419-448-4444 · TOLL FREE 888-507-6724 · FAX 419-443-7911

www.senecapros.org

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Sharon M. Skeel
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Matthew C. Noftz
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April 2, 2010

Press Release

State of Ohio vs. Ali Tatum

On Thursday April 1, 2010 a Seneca County jury convicted Ali Tatum of five drug related offenses including possession of crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstasy, and methamphetamine. Additionally, Mr. Tatum was convicted of possession of criminal tools and for having a weapon while under a disability. The offenses originated from a March 6, 2008 incident in Fostoria. Mr. Tatum faces a sentence of up to 32 years in prison.

Assistant Prosecutor Rhonda L. Best represented the State of Ohio at trial. After the trial, she commented that she was pleased that the jury had returned guilty verdicts on all of the counts. She said, "Dealing drugs in Seneca County has severe consequences". She congratulated the Zero Tolerance Task Force which had handled the investigation.

Seneca County Prosecutor Derek W. DeVine added: "The Zero Tolerance Task Force put together a very solid investigation. Our office will continue to aggressively prosecute drug trafficking in Seneca County".

Sentencing is scheduled for April 8 before Seneca County Common Pleas Court Judge Steve C. Shuff. The defendant was represented by Tiffin attorney Mark Klepatz.