

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

PAUL J. LETSOS,

Defendant.

ORDER

05-CR-164-C

On November 28, 2005, this court held a substantive hearing on the government's motion to detain defendant Paul J. Letsos. Letsos was present with his attorney, Erika Bierma. The government was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Paul Connell.

Having read the pretrial service report and its supplement, as well as Letsos's proposed release plan, and having considered the proffers and arguments of both sides, I determined that Letsos remains a flight risk notwithstanding the strength of his proposed release plan. The government has a deep and wide pool of evidence establishing that Letsos was an active participant in a huge methamphetamine conspiracy. Although the government's evidence suggests that Letsos is responsible for only a fraction of the methamphetamine distributed, he still faces a mandatory minimum ten years in prison; this potential makes it logical for a 57 year old man in ill health to flee.

Letsos has somewhere to go: he is a dual citizen of the United States and of Greece, and there is evidence that he helped his brother flee to Greece earlier to avoid unrelated state

criminal charges. If Letsos were able to steal across the border into Canada (easier from Superior than southern Wisconsin), there is no guarantee he could be located and stopped before obtaining a new Greek passport and fleeing the continent. Letsos's odd denial of his previous arrest (which has been corroborated by booking photos) coupled with his apparent assistance to his fugitive brother render him untrustworthy. Notwithstanding the integrity and determination of his proposed custodians, Letsos cannot be trusted to comply with any conditions of release this court might impose.

Accordingly, he shall remain detained pursuant to the court's previously-entered detention order.

Entered this 28th day of November, 2005.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER

Magistrate Judge