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Nearly Four Years Prison for Zuiker

By [Bonnie Hobbs](#)

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Before Centreville's Kevin Zuiker was sentenced Friday to nearly four years in prison for conspiring to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin, U.S. Attorney Daniel Grooms requested a sentence of 46-57 months.

"He was a drug dealer in the truest sense — selling drugs for profit," said Grooms. "He was only stopped when he was arrested [in May 2008] and prosecuted in Fairfax County. This wasn't a person selling because of his own addiction, but [mainly] selling and also using. The harm caused here is immense; the need to deter is incredible."

In a sentencing document submitted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Grooms, Erik Barnett and Lauren Wetzler, the prosecutors stated that Zuiker's involvement in the heroin ring ran from summer 2006 through May 2008, making him "one of the conspiracy's earliest and longest-running participants. He was also among the largest distributors of heroin — acknowledging that he distributed 400-700 grams of heroin."

In 2006 and 2007, Zuiker regularly went from Centreville to Waldorf, Md., with Angela Aycock, Andrew Kacvinsky or Anna Richter to buy heroin from Antonio Harper. Zuiker bought some 10 grams of heroin per week from Harper for about a year, and he and Kacvinsky sold it in Centreville.

In December 2007, when Harper stopped selling to people from Centreville, Zuiker started purchasing heroin in Baltimore from a source he met through Richter. He kept buying about 10 grams of heroin per week in Baltimore through May 2008.

In addition, wrote the prosecutors, "On January 2007, he supplied Richter with approximately 100 Klonopin pills for her to sell on her college campus. Then on Dec. 30, 2008, Zuiker was convicted in Fairfax County Circuit Court of possession with intent to distribute 1,300 Xanax pills.

But, countered defense attorney Stuart Sears, "Despite his actions, Kevin is a decent young man — kind, honest and truly sorry for what he's done. He knows it's a defining moment in his life and [that] the

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actions of the Lannes family, law enforcement and the courts saved his life."

Calling Zuiker "out of control," the past three years, Sears said, "The worse things became for him, the more he turned to drugs — mistakenly believing they'd help him deal with things better." He asked for a 36-month sentence, noting Zuiker "has 20 years to be on good behavior from Fairfax County" because of his suspended sentence for Xanax distribution. He wanted that sentence run concurrently with the federal punishment and asked that Zuiker be housed in the Butner, N.C., facility because of its drug-treatment program.

Then Zuiker apologized to "everyone I sold drugs to, my family and the community. I'm unhappy with my past choices and decisions, and happy for a second chance. Fear and depression fueled my use of drugs. [It] was so rampant, I believed suicide was better than living out my life that way. Being clean and sober has helped me regain my passion, motivation and desires. This situation was my wakeup call, and I'll have plenty of time to change my life and become a productive citizen."

Judge Leonie Brinkema noted that Zuiker's just 21 and suffers from "significant and genuine" mental-health issues and depression, aggravated by drugs and alcohol. "You were clearly more of a dealer than just a user," she told him. "But your record is not as bad as some of the other defendants."

She then sentenced him to 46 months in prison, running concurrently with his Fairfax sentence, and said she'd recommend he go to Butner for mental-health treatment and its 500-hour, intensive addictions program. Brinkema also placed him on five years supervised release and ordered him to have no contact with any of the co-defendants. He's also to maintain full-time education or employment, she told him, because "You're articulate and have a lot of potential."



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