

# DUNHAM & JONES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DUNHAM & JONES CLIENT SENTENCE REDUCED IN CONSIDERATION OF ASSISTANCE IN THE PRAIRIELAND DETENTION CENTER INVESTIGATION**

### **Defense Attorney Ben Florey Recognizes the Fairness of the Federal Justice System for Consideration of his Client's Cooperation**

**Austin, Texas — July 1, 2026**

Dunham & Jones, Attorneys at Law, P.C., issued the following statement regarding the sentencing of a client represented by attorneys Ben Florey & Robert Leahey in connection with the federal prosecution arising from the July 4, 2025, attack on the Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, Texas.

The Prairieland Detention Center attack drew national attention after a group with firearms and tactical equipment shot a law enforcement officer in their attack on the federal immigration detention facility. There was an extensive federal investigation involving multiple defendants.

Those defendants who went to trial for participating in the attack were found guilty and sentenced to from 30 to 100 years in federal prison.

The Court sentenced Mr. Florey's client to twenty-two (22) months plus one (1) year supervised released, recognizing that he had accepted responsibility, cooperated with state and federal law enforcement, and truthfully testified for the government at trial.

Dunham & Jones is a statewide Texas criminal defense law firm with over 130 lawyers across 17 offices. Ben Florey is a respected and seasoned criminal defense attorney with over 35 years of experience in federal and state courts. He has successfully handled many high profile cases covered by national and international media. He is AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell and Board Certified as a Criminal Law Specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Although Mr. Florey doesn't make offers to avoid trial, his conferences with the U.S. Attorneys on the case confirmed a mutual understanding of the facts and legal issues such that the government offered his client an opportunity to reduce his charge for assistance on specific issues.

Mr. Florey spent many hours conferencing in person with his client about his history, his circumstance, and his understanding of the charges. After our team's thorough examination of the facts and law involved in the case, our client made the decision to cooperate with federal authorities. Mr. Florey accompanied him as he provided state and federal law enforcement with truthful information and evidence, continued to advise him through the proceedings, and stood by him during his testimony at trial.

Attorney Ben Florey issued the following statement regarding today's sentencing of his client:

"While I successfully represent many clients in their right to a jury trial, others find it in their best interest to accept responsibility and provide substantial assistance to law enforcement in order to receive appropriate consideration.

"Our client made an informed decision to cooperate in these proceedings. That cooperation helped investigators develop the government's case and contributed to the successful prosecution of participants who planned and promoted this attack. Accordingly, his reduced charge and mitigated sentence reflect the fairness available in our federal justice system.

"We appreciate that the U.S. Attorney's Office recognized the value of our client's cooperation in this investigation as well as his truthful testimony to the jury."

This resolution marks another step in the federal prosecution arising from the Prairieland Detention Center attack. As other defendants continue to receive sentences, their outcomes may vary based on their history and level of involvement. Our client's favorable result was achieved through many hours of proper representation by respected attorneys experienced in providing excellent representation in the practice of criminal defense law.

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#### **About Dunham & Jones, Attorneys at Law, P.C.**

Dunham & Jones, Attorneys at Law, P.C., is a Texas criminal defense firm that has represented clients facing serious criminal charges since 1989. The firm maintains offices in Amarillo, Austin, Bryan/College Station, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Fort Worth, Georgetown, Houston, Killeen/Harker Heights, Lubbock, Midland, Plano, San Antonio, San Marcos, and Waco, and handles a full range of criminal matters, from misdemeanor offenses to complex felony cases.

## Case Timeline

| Date                       | Event                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 4, 2025</b>        | Attack on the Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, Texas. Federal prosecutors allege a coordinated assault during what began as an anti-ICE demonstration. An Alvarado police officer was shot and wounded.         |
| <b>July–September 2025</b> | Multiple arrests are made as investigators identify alleged participants and individuals accused of assisting after the attack.                                                                                          |
| <b>November 2025</b>       | Seven defendants plead guilty to federal charges rather than proceed to trial. Several agree to cooperate with investigators.                                                                                            |
| <b>February 23, 2026</b>   | Jury trial begins in Fort Worth.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>March 13, 2026</b>      | All nine defendants were convicted on at least some federal charges; eight were convicted on terrorism-, riot-, and explosives-related counts, while Daniel Sanchez Estrada was convicted on concealment-related counts. |
| <b>June 23, 2026</b>       | Eight trial defendants are sentenced in federal court to prison terms ranging from 30 to 100 years.                                                                                                                      |
| <b>July 1, 2026</b>        | Seven defendants are sentenced in federal court to prison terms ranging from 22 months to 15 years.                                                                                                                      |

## **Federal Sentencing To Date**

| <b>Defendant</b>                  | <b>Disposition</b>                                                                                                       | <b>Publicly Reported Sentence</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Benjamin Song                     | Convicted at trial; identified by prosecutors as organizer; convicted of attempted murder and terrorism-related offenses | <b>100 years</b>                  |
| Autumn Hill                       | Convicted at trial                                                                                                       | <b>50 years</b>                   |
| Zachary Evetts                    | Convicted at trial                                                                                                       | <b>50 years</b>                   |
| Savanna Batten                    | Convicted at trial                                                                                                       | <b>50 years</b>                   |
| Meagan<br>(Bradford) Morris       | Convicted at trial                                                                                                       | <b>50 years</b>                   |
| Maricela Rueda                    | Convicted at trial                                                                                                       | <b>70 years</b>                   |
| Elizabeth Soto                    | Convicted at trial                                                                                                       | <b>50 years</b>                   |
| Daniel Rolando<br>Sanchez-Estrada | Convicted at trial                                                                                                       | <b>30 years</b>                   |

|                |             |                                                     |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Nathan Baumann | Pled Guilty | <b>22 months, 1<br/>year supervised<br/>release</b> |
| Seth Sikes     | Pled Guilty | <b>6 years</b>                                      |
| Joy Gibson     | Pled Guilty | <b>15 years</b>                                     |
| Rebecca Morgan | Pled Guilty | <b>15 years</b>                                     |
| Lynette Sharp  | Pled Guilty | <b>110 months</b>                                   |
| John Thomas    | Pled Guilty | <b>110 months</b>                                   |