

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Guilty verdict for Ball Ground resident accused of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute  
State vs. Bert Edward Otto**

**November 30, 2022** – Cherokee County District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that, on October 19, 2022, a Cherokee County jury convicted Bert Edward Otto, 46, of Ball Ground, of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute.

On November 3, 2022, Chief Superior Court Judge Ellen McElyea sentenced Otto to 30 years with the first 7 years to serve in prison and the remainder to serve on probation. Otto is a recidivist offender.

Holly Springs Police Department arrested Otto on November 19, 2021, upon finding 22.9 grams of methamphetamine inside his disabled Nissan Rogue on Sixes Road.

“We are proud of the efforts our law enforcement partners undertook in this case,” said Assistant District Attorney Damion Overstreet, who handled the prosecution on behalf of the State. “After spotting a disabled vehicle, police officers responded to help a motorist in need, but soon determined that a crime was being committed. They switched gears and quickly searched the car, finding evidence that this defendant intended to sell a large amount of illegal drugs in our community.”

While searching the vehicle, officers also found approximately 50 baggies, a digital scale, and other drug paraphernalia.

“Due to the work of these alert police officers and effective prosecution of this case, a drug dealer is no longer on our streets, and will remain off our streets for many years,” said Assistant District Attorney Alex Sloope, who assisted with the prosecution of this case. “The jury did a great job listening to testimony and reaching a unanimous decision in this case.”

Based on evidence presented during the two-day trial, the jury delivered a verdict of guilty.

“When people like Bert Otto distribute drugs in our community, they exploit people who are addicted to dangerous drugs, destroying lives and hurting innocent family members,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. “Through this verdict and sentence, it is our hope that our message will be loud and clear – Cherokee County prosecutes and holds drug dealers accountable.”

This case was investigated by the Holly Springs Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Damion Overstreet, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Alex Sloope, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

*The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.*

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