

The Affidavit Analysis - Christian Coleman

1. **Full name of the officer(s):** Stephen P. Dowd
2. **The agency the officer worked for:** United States Postal Inspection Service
3. **Offense/alleged violation:** The investigation involves the illegal distribution of Methylone, a Schedule I controlled substance more commonly known as "Molly." The specific violations mentioned are:
 - Possession with intent to distribute and/or distribution of controlled substances (21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1))
 - Use of a communications facility in the commission of narcotics trafficking offenses (21 U.S.C. § 843(b))
 - Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and/or to distribute controlled substances (21 U.S.C. § 846)
4. **Training and/or experience of the officer:** Postal Inspector Dowd had been employed by the United States Postal Inspection Service for 18 years. He had specialized in narcotics investigations for 12 years and participated in numerous investigations involving the transportation of controlled substances through the United States Postal Service. During this time, he intercepted over 500 Express Mail and/or Priority Mail packages containing controlled substances or proceeds from controlled substance sales. He received training from the Drug Enforcement Administration in investigating controlled substances, and from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in investigating controlled substances and proceeds/payments being transported through the U.S. mail.
5. **Terms explained to the judge:** The officer explained several technical terms to the judge, including:
 - IP address (described as "a numerical label assigned to a computer or other device which participates in a computer network that uses the internet")
 - Track 'n Confirm website (explained as a USPS website that allows individuals to monitor package progress via the internet)
 - Methylone (identified as a Schedule I controlled substance commonly known as "Molly")
6. **Items to be searched:** Three items were to be searched:
 - Subject Parcel #1: An International Express Mail parcel (tracking number EA148154278HK) addressed to Julie Carlozzi in Rockland, MA
 - Subject Parcel #2: An International Express Mail parcel (tracking number EA148154304HK) also addressed to Julie Carlozzi in Rockland, MA
 - Residence of Harold Bates: 32 E Water St., Apt. C, Rockland, Massachusetts
7. **Facts supporting probable cause:** The key facts supporting probable cause include:
 - Connection between previous parcels and a Florida parcel containing methylone
 - The same IP address is used to track both the Florida parcel and Bates Parcel #1

- Bates picked up previous suspicious packages from China and Hong Kong
- Evidence found in Bates's trash, including empty Express Mail parcels from China/Hong Kong, cut-off tops of 35 clear plastic baggies (consistent with drug packaging), Western Union receipts showing money transfers to China, and invoices claiming the parcels contained various chemicals
- Purchase of a digital scale by Bates (commonly used to weigh drugs)
- K-9 "Lucky" giving positive alerts for narcotics on the subject parcels
- Bates's observed pattern of having packages addressed to others (Carlozzi) and then taking possession of them
- Bates's criminal history, including prior drug convictions

The Media Analysis

8. **Outlets that covered the case:** Several media outlets covered this case, including:
 - The Boston Globe published an article about prosecutors seeking a 10-year prison term for Bates [The Boston Globe](#)
 - Vice/Motherboard reported on how Bates was caught through his digital trail and IP address [VICE](#)
 - The U.S. Department of Justice website published press releases about Bates's guilty plea and sentencing [JusticeJustice](#)
 - Local news site Patch.com covered Bates's sentencing in December 2015 [Patch](#)
 - Legal websites, including FindLaw and Casetext, documented the case details [FindLaw](#)
9. **Interpretation of one news story's coverage:** The Boston Globe's coverage (Dec. 11, 2015) presented a factual, relatively neutral account of the case. The article focused on the prosecution's perspective, noting Bates's actions as a "career offender" who "double-crossed authorities" and "smuggled narcotics into jail." [The Boston Globe](#). While the tone was somewhat critical of Bates, the article also included the defense attorney's perspective that Bates had "suffered deep depressions" and developed addiction issues following a work-related injury. [The Boston Globe](#). The coverage was predominantly matter-of-fact, presenting both prosecution and defense positions without overtly biased language, though the criminal aspects of Bates's behavior were emphasized more than potential mitigating factors.
10. **Outcome of the case:** The case resulted in a conviction and a prison sentence. According to the Department of Justice press release, Harold Bates pleaded guilty in September 2015 to conspiracy to import methylone, importation of methylone, possession with intent to distribute methylone, and possession of a controlled substance by an inmate. [Justice](#) On December 14, 2015, Bates was sentenced by U.S. District Court Chief Judge Patti B. Saris to 100 months (8 years and 4 months) in prison and three years of

supervised release. [Justice](#). This sentence was less than the 10 years prosecutors had sought but more than the 5.5 years the defense had requested.

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