

# Marijuana found in raid on lawyer's home

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Officers of the Clark-Skamania Drug Task Force seized 108 marijuana plants Tuesday from the home of a Vancouver tax attorney.

Task force detectives raided the home of Larry A. Neal, 918 W. 21st St., on Tuesday afternoon after receiving information from a confidential informant.

Neal was present when the search warrant was executed but was not arrested. The case has been referred to the Clark County Prosecutor's office for possible charges.

According to search warrant materials authored by task force detective Charles Drake, most of the marijuana was found in the basement of Neal's rental home along with lights, timers, a fan and three containers of carbon dioxide.

All were seized by detectives along with other items including eight plastic baggies of marijuana and a digital scale.

According to a search warrant affidavit, authorities were first alerted to the marijuana grow by an informant in Portland. The informant told police that he visited

a home in Portland with about 50 marijuana plants. The home's occupant told the informant that he had a partner in Vancouver named "Larry" who was an attorney.

The informant was at the Portland home when the alleged partner visited. The informant copied the license number of the partner's car and turned it over to detectives. It showed that the vehicle belonged to Neal.

After officers seized an estimated 80 plants at the Portland home Tuesday, they checked electricity consumption for Neal's Vancouver residence and found it to be two to three times the average for the home's previous occupant. A short time later, they showed up with a search warrant.

Neal has been a Washington attorney since 1986.

If convicted of felony drug possession, he could be temporarily suspended from practicing law pending an investigation by the Washington State Bar.

Bar discipline for a criminal conviction can range up to disbarment.

Neal couldn't be reached for comment.