

Department of Justice

United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter
Western District of New York

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CONTACT: Peggy Kelly McFarland
PHONE: (716) 843-5877
FAX: (716) 551-3051

MAN ADMITS SELLING \$345,000 OF COUNTERFEIT STAMPS

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- Icarus Dakota Ferris, 31, originally from Grand Prairie, Texas, most recently of Orchard Park, New York, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny, to a felony charge of selling counterfeited postage stamps, U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. This crime carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gretchen L. Wylegala, who handled the case, stated that the defendant admitted that, since 2004, he engaged in the making and printing of counterfeited United States postage stamps, similar to those legitimately produced through stamps.com. Ferris also admitted offering the counterfeited stamps for sale over the internet, representing them as discount United States postage. Ferris admitted that he received gross income of approximately \$345,000 as a result of these sales. As part of the plea, Ferris also agreed to the forfeiture of approximately \$30,000 which was seized from bank accounts at the time of his arrest, which took place in July 2009.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of the Boston Division Inspector in Charge, Robert Bethel.

Sentencing is scheduled for February 26, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., in Buffalo,, N.Y., in front of U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny.