United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, January 29, 2010 www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae Docket #: 08-cr-533-GEB CONTACT: Lauren Horwood PHONE: 916-554-2706 usacae.edcapress@usdoj.gov

WOMAN ADMITS TO DISTRIBUTING "KNOCK OFF" GOODS AT GALT FLEA MARKET

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner, Placer County Sheriff Edward Bonner, and United States Secret Service Resident Agent-in-Charge, Scott Gillingham announced today that MARIA BROSNAN, 69, of Fremont, pleaded guilty to selling counterfeited goods, including handbags, wallets, and other items.

These cases are the product of joint investigations by the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the United States Secret Service. The trademark holders cooperated with law enforcement in investigating these cases.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting the case, BROSNAN admitted to selling a large volume of counterfeited or "knock off" handbags, wallets, and other items bearing the trademarks of designers including Gucci, Coach, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Prada, Jimmy Choo, and others. She sold the counterfeited product for profit. The counterfeited product seized by law enforcement was valued at nearly \$30,000.

BROSNAN is scheduled for sentencing on April 16, 2010, before the United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell Jr. She faces a maximum of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$2 million, or both. The counterfeited items are also subject to forfeiture and destruction.