



*United States Attorney  
District of New Jersey*

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**PATERSON, NEW JERSEY MAN SENTENCED TO A YEAR AND A DAY IN PRISON  
FOR POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL CREDIT CARD-MAKING EQUIPMENT**

CAMDEN, N.J. – A Passaic County, New Jersey man was sentenced today to a year and a day in prison for possessing a carload of credit card-making equipment, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Carlos Pimentel Porquin, 24, of Paterson, pleaded guilty on October 7, 2009, before United States District Judge Noel L. Hillman to a criminal Information charging him with trafficking in and possession of device-making equipment with the intent to defraud. Judge Hillman also imposed sentence today in Camden federal court.

At his plea hearing, Pimentel admitted that he drove a 2003 Acura loaded with specialized equipment for use in creating fraudulent credit cards from Ohio into New Jersey. On March 5, 2009, Byram Township police officers stopped Pimentel and his passenger, Fernando Ramirez Marzan, after Pimentel drove erratically away from a gas station where he had used a fraudulent credit card to purchase gasoline.

The equipment in the Acura included approximately 90 credit cards embossed with Pimentel's name; credit card printers; foil tippers used to highlight lettering and numbers on fraudulent credit cards; card embossers; holograms that mimicked authenticating holograms from Visa and other branded credit cards; card readers and recorders used to read and encode data on credit cards; and several hundred credit cards which were blank or in various states of production. Arresting officers also seized four computers and various memory devices which contained credit card numbers belonging to individuals in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, Europe and Central America. Pimentel admitted that he intended to use the cards to obtain goods for resale without paying for them.

Pimentel and Ramirez were each charged by complaint on May 14, 2009. Ramirez, who was indicted by a Newark federal grand jury in September 15, 2009, pleaded guilty before Judge Hillman to possessing device-making equipment with the intent to defraud on January 25, 2010. He has been detained since his arrest and awaits sentencing.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Hillman sentenced Pimentel to three years of supervised release and ordered him to pay restitution in the amount of \$9,676.74. Pimentel also agreed to forfeit his rights to the equipment seized from the Acura. Judge Hillman continued Pimentel's release on a \$75,000 appearance bond pending his surrender to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

U.S. Attorney Fishman praised special agents of the United States Secret Service, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge James Mottola in Newark; the Byram Township Police Department, under the direction of Chief Raymond F. Rafferty; and the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor David J. Weaver, for the investigation leading to today's sentence.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Seth B. Kosto of the United States Attorney's Office Economic Crimes Unit in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: John R. Klotz, Esq., Clifton, N.J.