



NEWS RELEASE

**NELSON P. COHEN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse • 222 W. 7th Avenue • Room 253 • Anchorage, AK 99513 • (907) 271-5071

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, February 10, 2009**

09-015

**ILLEGAL ALIEN PLEADS GUILTY TO REENTRY
AND POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on February 10, 2009, Hector Manuel Garcia-Sanchez, an illegal alien residing in Anchorage, Alaska, pleaded guilty in federal court in Anchorage to one count of illegal reentry after deportation and one count of being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm.

Garcia-Sanchez, age 30, a citizen of Mexico, pleaded guilty to the two counts before Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick.

In connection with the guilty plea, Assistant United States Attorney Thomas C. Bradley advised the court that Garcia-Sanchez was arrested October 20, 2008 by Anchorage Police after repeatedly discharging a handgun in the 2800 block of West 31st Avenue. The defendant is an illegal alien who had previously been deported at San Diego, California in December 2002. Federal law prohibits possession of firearms by illegal aliens, as well as presence in the United States by aliens who have been previously deported and failed to obtain permission to apply for re-admission.

Judge Sedwick scheduled sentencing for April 28, 2009 at 8:30 am. The law provides for a maximum total sentence of 12 years in prison, a \$500,000 fine, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Pending sentencing, the court continued the defendant's incarceration at the Anchorage Correctional Complex without bond.

The Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; and the Anchorage Police Department conducted the investigation that led to the prosecution of Garcia-Sanchez.

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