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FORMER FOLSOM RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR SELLING FAKE DESIGNER HANDBAGS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that KA LIT LAM, 39, formerly of Folsom and currently living in San Jose, was sentenced on Monday by United States District Judge William B. Shubb to four months in prison and 36 months of supervised release for trafficking in counterfeit goods. She pleaded guilty on March 23, 2009.

This case was the product of an investigation by the United States Customs and Border Patrol (CBP).

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who prosecuted the case, on December 6, 2006, an officer with CBP examined a shipment of 56 boxes of merchandise. These boxes contained counterfeit trademark protected merchandise, including purses, wallets, shoes, earrings, chains, and charms bearing the marks of Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Coach, Dolce & Gabbana, Christian Dior, Juicy Couture, Tiffany, Disney, and Hello Kitty. The shipment was intended for LAM's home in Folsom. The value of the counterfeit items was estimated to be \$58,335. The retail value of those items, had they been real, was estimated to be \$1,209,400.

On July 23, 2007, ICE agents executed a search warrant at LAM's home and found 14 boxes of counterfeit goods and a "stamper," which is used to affix counterfeit name tags to counterfeit items.

During subsequent statements to ICE agents, LAM admitted to importing counterfeit merchandise into the United States and selling and attempting to sell that counterfeit merchandise. He said that he traveled to China in May 2006 and bought 400 non-counterfeit purses, which he sold at a market in San Francisco. While selling these purses, customers asked him if he could get them counterfeit purses.

In September 2006, the defendant returned to China and purchased approximately \$8,000 in counterfeit merchandise. These items were shipped by the defendant in October 2006 and seized by CBP upon their arrival into the United States in December 2006.

In November 2006, the defendant received a shipment of nametags and authentication cards from China. By using a stamper, the defendant affixed counterfeit labels onto non-counterfeit, non-branded items to make them appear genuine. The authentication cards were intended to be put into the newly counterfeited items in order to deceive customers into believing that the items were genuine. The defendant affixed these tags in order to sell the items at local markets.

Judge Shubb, in sentencing the defendant, said that the victims in this case were the manufacturers of the products that the defendant counterfeited, as well as the people who might buy those products thinking that they were authentic designer products.

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