



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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GRANITE BAY WOMAN ADMITS TO DISTRIBUTING “KNOCK OFF” GOODS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown, Placer County Sheriff Edward Bonner, and United States Secret Service Resident Agent-in-Charge, Scott Gillingham, announced today that MICHELLE BUNFILL, 49, of Granite Bay, pleaded guilty to selling counterfeited goods, sometimes called “knock offs,” including handbags, wallets, and other items.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Placer County Sheriff’s Office and the United States Secret Service with cooperation from the trademark holders.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting the case, BUNFILL admitted to selling a large volume of counterfeited handbags and wallets bearing the trademarks of designers including Gucci, Coach, Prada, Burberry, Kate Spade, Chanel, and others. The defendant sold the counterfeited product for profit, often making the items available in the homes of people who recruited prospective purchasers for the defendant. The defendant admitted that from June 2006 through August 2007 she earned gross sales of approximately \$184,046.

Sentencing is set for November 30, 2009, before United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr.

BUNFILL faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$2 million; the counterfeited items are subject to forfeiture. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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