

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
402 East State Street, Room 430  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

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***Paul J. Fishman, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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sul1104.rel  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Nov. 4, 2009

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Monmouth County Man Sentenced to 12 Months in Prison for  
Counterfeiting Postage Meter Stamps to Ship Counterfeit  
Merchandise

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(More)

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TRENTON – A Millstone man was sentenced to 12 months in federal prison today for counterfeiting postage meter stamps, which he used to ship counterfeit Hervé Chapelier handbags and purses he sold through the Internet site eBay, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

U.S. District Judge Freda L. Wolfson also ordered Steven Sul, 32, to pay \$15,711 in restitution and to serve two years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. Judge Wolfson continued the defendant's release on a \$100,000 bond pending his surrender to officials with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons on or before Jan. 15.

Sul pleaded guilty before Judge Wolfson on July 22, 2009, to a one-count Information that charged him with making, using, selling and possessing with the intent to use and sell approximately 2,468 forged and counterfeited postage meter stamps of varying amounts between \$5.45 and \$5.60 per stamp.

At his plea hearing, Sul admitted that from Oct. 27, 2008, through May 14, 2009, he engaged in the business of selling counterfeit Hervé Chapelier handbags and purses on eBay. As part of that business, Sul admitted that using his computer, he created approximately 2,468 counterfeit postage meter stamps to ship the packages containing counterfeit Hervé Chapelier bags to customers.

Sul admitted that he charged the eBay buyers for shipping costs, but then simply kept the money due to the fact that he was using a counterfeit postage meter. Sul admitted that he altered the dollar value of the counterfeited postage meter stamp to satisfy the current applicable shipping rate.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Wolfson consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Fishman credited Postal Inspectors with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector in Charge David L. Collins, with investigation of the case.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney James T. Kitchen, of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Trenton.

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Defense Attorney: Arthur R. Carmano, Esq. Englewood