



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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AUSTIN MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO MONEY LAUNDERING

LAS CRUCES – United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that earlier today, Michael Nolan McKnabb, 27, of Austin, Texas, pled guilty in United States District Court in Las Cruces, New Mexico to an information charging him with one count of money laundering. According to a criminal complaint filed on October 20, 2010, McKnabb was arrested on October 18, 2010, at the United States Border Patrol checkpoint on Interstate 10 west of Las Cruces with a suitcase filled with \$12,230 in currency. The complaint alleged that the money was proceeds from marijuana sales and that McKnabb was en route to California to buy high grade marijuana with the money.

The information charged McKnabb with violating 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a), which makes it a crime for a person to conduct a financial transaction for the purpose of promoting an unlawful activity. The maximum penalty for the offense is 20 years of imprisonment, a \$500,000 fine and three years of supervised release.

This case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and
Assistant United States Attorney Michael Nammar is the prosecutor assigned to the case.

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