

For Immediate Release
June 13, 2011

**MEXICAN NATIONAL PLEADS GUILTY TO
FEDERAL ARMED BANK ROBBERY CHARGES**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court in Albuquerque, **Edwin Vismar Urena-Hernandez**, 24, pleaded guilty to a two-count information charging him with (1) armed bank robbery and (2) using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office. At his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled, Urena-Hernandez faces a maximum 25-year term of imprisonment for the armed bank robbery offense, and a minimum 7-year term of imprisonment that must run consecutive to his armed bank robbery sentence for his firearms conviction. Urena-Hernandez, a Mexican national from Sinaloa, Mexico who has been in federal custody since his arrest on March 10, 2011, will be deported after he completes his prison sentence.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Urena-Hernandez pleaded guilty to robbing the Bank of the West branch (Bank) located at 1422 Carlisle Boulevard NE in Albuquerque on March 10, 2011. Urena-Hernandez was charged in a criminal complaint filed on March 11, 2011 and subsequently was indicted on March 22, 2011.

According to the criminal complaint, witnesses to the March 10, 2011 bank robbery described the bank robber as a Spanish-speaking male wearing a dark mask, a dark hooded zip-up jacket and dark pants who brandished a two-tone long barreled semi-automatic handgun at the bank tellers when he demanded cash. The witnesses reported that the bank robber fled on foot after obtaining cash from the tellers. Shortly thereafter, officers of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) observed a man fitting the robber's description in a Ford Escape at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Menaul Boulevards NE. When the officers removed the man

from the vehicle, they discovered a loaded handgun in his pants and also found other evidence of the bank robbery.

In his plea agreement, Urena-Hernandez admitted robbing the Bank at gunpoint on March 10, 2011. He also admitted that, after he was arrested by APD and transferred into the custody of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), he confessed to robbing the Bank after he was advised of his constitutional rights.

The case was investigated by the FBI and APD, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Shammara H. Henderson.

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