

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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RINGLEADER, CO-DEFENDANT PLEAD GUILTY TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Michael McCall, 61, of Cheektowaga, N.Y., and Deshawn McLorn, 38, of Buffalo, N.Y., pleaded guilty to conspiring to sell OxyContin in the Buffalo region. OxyContin is a popular brand-name for tablets containing oxycodone, which is a controlled substance and a powerful, and potentially addictive, narcotic pain-reliever. The charges carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, and a \$1,000,000 fine.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael L. McCabe, in 2009 and 2010, McCall organized a series of individuals who obtained OxyContin prescriptions from local physicians and then sold the tablets to McCall. The defendant often times instructed these individuals about how to approach their physicians to obtain the prescriptions.

After successfully obtaining OxyContin tablets from the members of this drug-trafficking organization, McCall then supplied the tablets to street level distributors, including Deshawn McLorn, for further resale. McLorn distributed 1,000 OxyContin tablets on Strauss Street in Buffalo which he had obtained from McCall.

McCall and McLorn were arrested along with 14 others in July 2010. As a result of today's pleas, all 16 defendants have now been convicted.

"This case represents the largest prescription pill trafficking ring that has been successfully prosecuted in this District," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "Thanks to today's convictions, the leader of this criminal organization, Michael McCall, and his associates, no longer have the ability to flood the streets of our community with illegal prescription drugs. It almost goes without saying that when prescribed by a medical professional and taken

properly, prescription drugs can be beneficial for a patient. But when they end up in the wrong hands, including the hands of young people, prescription drugs can be dangerous, even deadly. This Office, along with our law enforcement partners, are committed to tracking down and prosecuting any and all individuals who illegally traffic in any sort of dangerous narcotic substances, including prescription pills."

The pleas were the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Special Agent-in-Charge Brian R. Crowell, in conjunction with many local and state authorities such as the New York State Police, the Buffalo Police Department, the Cheektowaga Police Department, the West Seneca Police Department and the Lancaster Police Department.

McCall will be sentenced on January 8, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. before Judge Skretny. Sentencing for McLorn is scheduled for January 9, 2013, at 9:00 a.m., also before Judge Skretny.

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