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# **News Release**

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[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN)

## **St. Paul man pleads guilty to conspiring to transport stolen goods**

A 42-year-old St. Paul man pleaded guilty earlier today in federal court in Minneapolis to participating in a stolen-goods racket. Christopher Allen Janota appeared before United States District Court Chief Judge Michael J. Davis and pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to transport stolen property. He was charged on December 23, 2010.

In his plea agreement, Janota admitted that from January 1 through September 25, 2007, he conspired with others to resell stolen merchandise. Janota's co-conspirators stole products from retail businesses in Minnesota and other states and then sold the stolen goods to Janota's Woodbury-based company. Janota sold the merchandise to third parties through the Internet and shipped them via the U.S. Postal Service. The nine co-conspirators in this case already have pleaded guilty to related charges.

For his crime, Janota faces a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison. Judge Davis will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Woodbury Police Department, with assistance from the Loss Prevention Departments at Wal-Mart and Target. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert M. Lewis.

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