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News Release

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Reno, Nevada, man pleads guilty to assaulting woman on flight to Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, an 83-year-old man from Reno, Nevada, pleaded guilty to assaulting a paramedic/respiratory specialist while traveling to Rochester, Minnesota, via his private airplane. Robert M. Lee pleaded guilty to one count of misdemeanor assault in connection to the incident. He was charged on June 13, 2011, in federal court because the offense occurred on board the aircraft while in flight. Lee entered his plea before United States Chief Magistrate Judge Arthur J. Boylan.

Court documents filed in this case state that on September 21, 2010, Lee was traveling to a hospital in Rochester while under the care of a paramedic and a registered nurse. When the paramedic assisted Lee in returning to his seat, he allegedly grabbed and twisted her breast, causing her injury. When the woman told Lee not to touch her, he allegedly replied, "I can do whatever I want. This is my airplane."

For his crime, Lee faces a potential maximum penalty of six months in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Judge Boylan will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled. This case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Laura M. Provinzino and John R. Marti.

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