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Two Members of Syracuse Drug Ring Plead Guilty

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NEWS RELEASE

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announces that two defendants pled guilty today in U.S. District Court in Syracuse to drug trafficking charges relating to their role in a major drug organization that was operating in Syracuse from early 2008 through at least April 2009.

PHILLIP J. SMITH, JR., age 29, of Syracuse, pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 50 grams (one ounce) of crack cocaine and more than five (5) kilograms of cocaine powder. At sentencing, he faces a term of imprisonment of at least 10 years, up to life, a fine of up to \$4 million and a supervised release term of at least 4 years following any period of incarceration.

FRANCIS W. STOUGHTENGER, age 46, of Syracuse, pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine. At sentencing, he faces up to 20 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1 million and a supervised release term of at least 3 years following any period of incarceration.

These prosecutions resulted from a joint investigation undertaken by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Syracuse Police Department, the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police.

Further inquiries can be directed to Assistant U. S. Attorney John M. Katko, Syracuse, New York at (315) 448-0916.