



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian
Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: William Pericak (518) 431-0247
Julie S. Pfluger (518) 314-7800

DEFENDANT CONVICTED OF NARCOTICS IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION

Jury Trial Leads to Conviction in Scheme to Smuggle Ecstasy and Other Drugs Through Champlain Port of Entry

August 23, 2011

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and United States Homeland Security Investigations Resident Agent in Charge, Rouses Point, Leroy Tario, announced today that TARA HAYNES, age 34, of Montreal, Quebec, was convicted on August 22, 2011, of Possession with Attempt to Distribute a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), and Attempted Importation of a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952 and 963. HAYNES was found guilty after a four day jury trial in front of United States District Court Judge Mae A. D’Agostino in Albany, New York.

The evidence at the trial established that HAYNES was arrested on June 2, 2011, when she attempted to enter the United States at the Champlain, New York, Port of Entry. Upon secondary inspection, over 70,000 tablets containing Methamphetamine, MDMA (also known as “Ecstasy”), and 5-methoxy-N, N-diisopropyltryptamine (also known as “Foxy Methoxy”) were found in the gas tank of the rental car HAYNES was driving. The value of these narcotics was later determined to be between \$500,000 and \$2.1 million.

The investigation was conducted by United States Homeland Security Investigations, Customs and Border Protection and the Clinton County Sheriff’s Department. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of New York.

HAYNES is scheduled to be sentenced on December 19, 2011, in Albany, New York. A conviction of Possession with the Intent to Distribute and Attempted Importation of a Controlled Substance carries a mandatory minimum sentence of ten (10) years imprisonment, a maximum sentence of up to life imprisonment, and a fine up to \$10,000,000. Judge D'Agostino ordered that the defendant remain in the custody of the United States Marshals pending sentencing.

Any questions may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Julie S. Pfluger in Plattsburgh, New York at 518-314-7800.