



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 7, 2011

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**FORMER NEW YORK CITY TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY IN MANHATTAN
FEDERAL COURT TO RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOHN E. THOMAS, a former teacher and summer camp counselor, pled guilty today in Manhattan federal court to receiving child pornography. THOMAS, 28, of Manhattan, pled guilty before U.S. District Judge KEVIN T. DUFFY.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "John Thomas is a parent's worst nightmare - a person entrusted with the well being of their children who is avidly consuming child pornography on the side. He will now be punished for his crime and will never be in such close proximity to children again."

According to the Information to which THOMAS pled guilty, documents previously filed in Manhattan federal court, statements made during the guilty plea proceeding, and other information in the public record:

THOMAS, who taught fourth and fifth grade students and worked as a summer day camp counselor prior to his arrest, possessed images of child pornography that he downloaded from the Internet using LimeWire, a peer-to-peer file-sharing computer program. During a search of THOMAS's residence conducted in August 2010, THOMAS's computer and other digital media were seized, and later were found to contain numerous images and videos of minor children engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

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THOMAS pled guilty to one count of receiving child pornography. He faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison, a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, and a maximum fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense. THOMAS also admitted to forfeiture allegations requiring him to forfeit any property constituting or derived from proceeds obtained by the defendant directly or indirectly as

a result of the offense, and any property used in the commission of the offense. He will be sentenced by Judge DUFFY 2011, at 9:30 am.

Mr. BHARARA praised the work of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations in this case.

This case is being prosecuted by the General Crimes Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney CHRISTOPHER DIMASE is in charge of the prosecution.

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