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**RINGLEADER OF SCHEME THAT USED STOLEN IDENTITIES TO
OBTAIN FRAUDULENT DRIVER'S LICENSES SENTENCED IN
MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO 85 MONTHS IN PRISON**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that WILCH DEWALT was sentenced in Manhattan federal court to 85 months in prison for his role in an identity fraud scheme in which he used stolen identity information to obtain more than 200 driver's licenses and other identification documents for convicted felons, illegal aliens and others. DEWALT bribed two employees of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles ("NYS-DMV") to facilitate his scheme. On February 4, 2011, DEWALT pled guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit identity fraud, aggravated identity theft, and bribery. His sentence was imposed by U.S. District Judge ALVIN K. HELLERSTEIN.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "Wilch Dewalt used stolen identities of unsuspecting New Yorkers to create a second life for criminals and convicted felons, many of whom sought his services for the express purpose of evading background checks and other important law enforcement measures. He had no qualms about whom he did business with, as long as he could make a profit. With today's sentence, the leader of this crimes "

scheme will now pay for his

According to court documents and proceedings:

DEWALT was the ringleader of a New York-based identity fraud ring that sold stolen identity information to, among others, convicted felons, a sex offender, an individual featured on the television show "America's Most Wanted," and an undercover officer who claimed to be on the U.S. Government no-fly list. The stolen information was used to obtain more than 200 New York State driver's licenses, learner's permits, and identification cards (collectively, "DMV Documents") for these individuals.

DEWALT served as a one-stop shop for fraudulent identification documents, and charged his customers as much as \$10,000 each for his services. He supplied his customers with a complete "package" of identification documents, including some genuine and some fraudulent, that they could then use to obtain a DMV Document in a stolen identity.

To carry out this scheme, DEWALT paid cash bribes to two NYS-DMV employees -- GLENDA HINTON and ROBIN JONES-WOODSON -- who assisted him in obtaining the DMV Documents in the stolen identities. In particular, HINTON used a DMV database to determine whether any identification documents had previously been issued in the stolen identities and then provided that information to DEWALT. JONES-WOODSON met with DEWALT's customers and helped them process their DMV applications. JONES-WOODSON also completed the written learner's permit examination for some of DEWALT's customers.

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In addition to his prison term, Judge HELLERSTEIN sentenced DEWALT, 53, of New York, New York, to three years of supervised release and ordered him to forfeit \$200,000.

HINTON and JONES-WOODSON each previously pled guilty for their roles in the scheme. In addition, the following three participants in the scheme have also pled guilty: JOSE R. TORRES-MUNOZ, who was one of the people from whom DEWALT purchased stolen personal identification information; DOUGLAS L. ROPER, who acted as a broker and directed customers seeking fraudulent DMV identification documents to DEWALT; and SARA DEL ROCIO CHERREZ-ROMERO, who provided instructions to DEWALT's Spanish-speaking customers about how to obtain their fraudulent DMV Documents.

Mr. BHARARA thanked all of the federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies involved in the investigation, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations, the NYPD, the New York State Office of the Inspector General, the Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General, and the U.S. Secret Service. He also
for their assistance.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys RICHARD C. TARLOWE and BRENT S. WIBLE are in charge of the prosecution.

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