



***United States Attorney
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

FEBRUARY 6, 2009

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**WHITE PLAINS FEDERAL COURT SENTENCES PHARMACIST
TO 5 YEARS FOR ILLEGALLY DISTRIBUTING DRUGS**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that yesterday United States District Judge STEPHEN C. ROBINSON sentenced IVAN ROMERO, 40, a White Plains pharmacist, to a term of imprisonment of 5 years. The sentence followed ROMERO's entry of a guilty plea in White Plains federal court on May 7, 2008, to illegally distributing and dispensing Oxycodone, a Schedule II controlled substance, without a valid written or oral prescription.

According to the Indictment, other documents filed in this case, and statements made at ROMERO's guilty plea proceeding:

From April 2005 through December 2005, IVAN ROMERO worked as a supervising pharmacist at the Broadway Pharmacy in White Plains, New York. ROMERO was responsible for running the pharmacy operation, filling prescriptions, and ordering and dispensing medication, including controlled substances, from the pharmacy's suppliers. During that time ROMERO took Oxycodone and Hydrocodone, both of which are controlled substances, from the pharmacy's stocks and distributed it for unlawful, non-medical, purposes. Pharmacy records show that ROMERO unlawfully diverted 348 grams of Oxycodone and 295.86 grams of Hydrocodone in this manner.

In addition to his sentence of 5 years in prison, ROMERO was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$36,158.49.

Mr. DASSIN praised the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration for its assistance in the investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorney MARCIA S. COHEN is in charge of the prosecution.

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