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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**UNITED STATES ENTERS INTO CONSENT DECREE WITH  
HOTEL CARTER REQUIRING COMPLIANCE WITH  
THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that the owners and operators of the HOTEL CARTER have agreed to settle a lawsuit brought by the United States and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). The Consent Decree and Judgment regarding the HOTEL CARTER was signed by the United States District Judge VICTOR MARRERO yesterday.

On January 13, 2009, the United States filed a Complaint in Manhattan federal court against the owner and operator of the ALPHONSE HOTEL CORPORATION ("ALPHONSE"), on the grounds that there were numerous violations of the ADA Standards for Accessible Design at the HOTEL CARTER, which ALPHONSE owns and operates.

According to the Consent Decree and Judgment filed in Manhattan federal court:

The HOTEL CARTER, located at 250 West 43rd Street, agreed to address numerous violations of the ADA Standards for Accessible Design within the next three years. The HOTEL CARTER agreed to ensure that its main public entrance, the registration counter, and its public restrooms are accessible. In addition, the HOTEL CARTER agreed to provide, based upon the total number of rooms available to patrons at the HOTEL CARTER, 13 rooms that are accessible to people with disabilities, all of which shall have roll-in showers, and 22 rooms that are accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The HOTEL CARTER also agreed to change its policies and procedures to facilitate reservations by people with disabilities, allow service animals, and require hotel staff to assist people with disabilities. The Consent Decree regarding the HOTEL CARTER applies to ALPHONSE, as the owners and operators of the HOTEL CARTER.

In addition, the owners and operators of the HOTEL CARTER agreed to pay a \$20,000 fine to the United States.

When the lawsuit against the HOTEL CARTER was filed in January 2009, the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York announced that as a result of a compliance review of almost 50 Theater District hotels, the Office had finalized Voluntary Compliance Agreements with 15 Theater District hotels. Since that date, the United States has entered into three additional agreements, for a total of 18, in addition to four other hotels covered by previously signed Consent Decrees. The United States is now in the process of finalizing an additional 26 agreements, or proceeding to litigation against those hotel owners and operators who decline to comply voluntarily with the ADA.

In May 2009, the United States entered into settlements with four other hotels: the MODERNE, the AMERITANIA, the AMSTERDAM COURT, and the RADIO CITY SUITES. The HOTEL CARTER is the fifth hotel to enter into a settlement following the filing of a civil action.

Mr. BHARARA stated: "We are pleased that the Hotel Carter agreed to comply with the ADA, and we hope that all of the hotels in our compliance review quickly follow suit. We will continue fighting to ensure that New York City hotels obey federal law. People with disabilities are entitled to the same access to accommodations as everyone else."

Assistant United States Attorneys LAWRENCE H. FOGELMAN, CAROLINA A. FORNOS, DAVID J. KENNEDY, and HEATHER K. McSHAIN are in charge of the cases, which are being handled by the Office's Civil Division.

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