

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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BUFFALO MAN SENTENCED ON COCAINE CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Joseph Hughes, 27, of Buffalo, N.Y., who was convicted of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine and of distributing cocaine base, was sentenced to 85 months in prison and three years supervised release by U.S. District Chief Judge William M. Skretny.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy C. Lynch, who handled the case, stated that on September 10, 2009, Hughes was driving a rented Ford Fusion in Apache County, Arizona, when he was stopped by Deputies of the Apache County, Arizona Sheriff's Department for following too closely to the vehicle in front of him. The vehicle was searched after a narcotics detection canine alerted deputies to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle. Deputies seized approximately \$299,590 in United States currency. Approximately \$108,000 of this money was the defendant's money, which he intended to use to purchase either cocaine or marijuana from a co-conspirator, who resides in Arizona. The remaining money belonged to the co-conspirator, who had asked the defendant to transport it for him from the Western District of New York to Arizona. The defendant also admitted that on June 25, 2010, he sold a quantity of cocaine base.

The sentencing is the result of an investigation by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division, the Internal Revenue Service, under the direction Special Agent in Charge Charles R. Pine, and Deputies of the Apache County, Arizona Sheriff's Department.