

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS  
PHONE: (716) 843-5817  
FAX: (716) 551-3051

## MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Charles A. Mensah, 31, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was convicted after trial of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute pills containing methamphetamine, 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (Ecstasy or MDMA), and 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP), and use of a communication facility to commit a drug trafficking crime. Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny sentenced Mensah to 72 months in prison followed by 4 years supervised released.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Catherine Baumgarten, who handled the case, stated that beginning in June, 2007, and continuing up to his arrest on June 17, 2009, Mensah was a member of a group of individuals who imported Ecstasy pills from Canada, and then distributed those Ecstasy pills in the Western New York area, in New York City, and in Chicago. Mensah traveled from Brooklyn to Buffalo, where he bought Ecstasy pills from a coconspirator, before selling some of those pills to other members of the conspiracy in Chicago, and some to his customers in the New York City area.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation by Special Agents of the Department of Justice, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero.

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