

# Department of Justice

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 9, 2012  
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## **MEDINA ATTORNEY CHARGED WITH RUNNING A MARIJUANA GROW OPERATION**

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Adam Rissew, 36, of Medina, N.Y., was charged by Criminal Complaint with manufacturing marijuana and weapons possession in furtherance of drug trafficking activity. The marijuana charge carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison; the firearms charge carries a mandatory five year sentence. Rissew may also be fined up to \$250,000 on each charge.

Assistant U.S. Anthony M. Bruce, who is handling the case, stated that according to the Complaint, on July 20, 2012, the Orleans County Major Felony Crime Task Force executed a search warrant at the defendant's home on Catherine St. in Medina. The Complaint further alleges that law enforcement officers discovered an extensive marijuana growing operation as well as scales, cutting devices, packaging materials, marijuana that appeared to be cut and a gun. In addition, a safe was discovered which contained three more guns and ammunition.

Rissew, an attorney and assistant public defender in the Monroe County Public Defender's Office up to the time of this recent arrest, was apprehended on July 20, 2012 and charged by the Orleans County Sheriff's Department with marijuana possession. The state charges have been dismissed.

The defendant will make an initial appearance before Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon.

"We have worked collaboratively with both the Orleans County District Attorney and the Orleans Sheriff's Department in the past, and this is the just the latest example," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "We stand ready and willing to work with all of our law enforcement

partners to bring any individual whose actions rise to the level of a federal crime to justice."

The Criminal Complaint is the culmination of an investigation on the part of the the Orleans County Major Felony Crime Task Force, under the direction of Sheriff Scott D. Hess and the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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