

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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MEDINA ATTORNEY INDICTED FOR RUNNING A MARIJUANA GROW OPERATION

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that a federal grand jury has returned a four count Indictment charging Adam Rissew, 36, of Medina, N.Y., with the manufacturing of marijuana, using his home to manufacture and distribute marijuana and weapons possession in furtherance of his drug trafficking activity. The marijuana charges carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; the firearms charge carries a mandatory five year sentence. Rissew may also be fined up to \$2,250,000.

Assistant U.S. Anthony M. Bruce, who is handling the case, stated that according to the Indictment, 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, nearly 700 rounds of ammunition and several large capacity magazines.

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

The defendant was arraigned before Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. He is being detained pending continuation of a detention hearing on August 27, 2012.

The Indictment is the culmination of an investigation on the part of the the Orleans County Major Felony Crime Task Force, under the direction of District Attorney Joseph Cardone and 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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