

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 06, 2012
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BUFFALO WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Latisha Siplin, 34, of Buffalo, N.Y., pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny to bank fraud. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison, a fine of \$1,000,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti, who is handling the case, stated that between November 2009 and March 2010, Siplin and co-defendant Natasha Jemison cashed or attempted to cash 19 checks totaling \$9,350 which were drawn on closed bank accounts. In addition, between November 2007 and September 2008, Siplin cashed or attempted to cash nine additional checks totaling \$9,000 which were drawn a closed bank account.

Natasha Jemison was convicted of bank fraud in December 2011 and will be sentenced in March.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, under the direction of Tracy Gast, Special Agent In Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 26, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of Judge Skretny.

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