

# Department of Justice

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

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## **BUFFALO WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGES**

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Evalina Stokes, 23, of Buffalo, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara to conspiracy to commit money laundering. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney George C. Burgasser, who is handling the case, on June 8, 2009, the defendant traveled to Houston, Texas from Buffalo to deliver a sum of United States currency. The defendant was arrested along with 19 others, for their involvement in a multi-kilogram cocaine distribution network. Stokes is the 16th defendant to be convicted.

Today's conviction is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Christopher M. Piehota, the Drug Enforcement Agency under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Frank Christiano.

Sentencing is scheduled for September 26, 2012 at 12:30 p.m. before Judge Arcara.

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