



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Washington D.C. Man Pleads Guilty in Online Child Predator Case**

(Alexandria, VA) - Steven M. Bennof, of Washington D.C., pleaded guilty today to a one count criminal information charging him with attempted enticement of a minor to engage in illegal sexual conduct in violation of federal law. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that United States District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema set sentencing for October 20, 2006. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison, and Bennof may also be placed on supervised release for life.

According to court documents, between July 28 and August 17, 2005, Bennof engaged in numerous Internet chat sessions with a person he believed to be a thirteen-year-old boy. Bennof used his AOL account to discuss sexual acts he wanted to engage in with the boy. On August 17, 2005, Bennof drove to a residence in Herndon, Virginia where he hoped to meet the boy for a sexual encounter.

The case was investigated by special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Edmund P. Power and Gerald J. Smagala.

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