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STOCKTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS AND STRUCTURING

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced today that QI JIN CHEN, also known as JIMMY CHEN, 37, of Stockton, pleaded guilty to one count of trafficking in counterfeit goods and one count of structuring cash transactions to avoid mandatory reporting requirements.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the United States Secret Service, Placer County Sheriff's Office, the Galt Police Department, and an Internal Revenue Service financial crimes task force, which includes agents from IRS-Criminal Investigation, the Sacramento Police Department, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Robin R. Taylor and Jean M. Hobler, who are prosecuting the case, CHEN admitted during his plea today that he was both a wholesaler and a retailer of counterfeit goods in major quantities. In a search conducted in October 2008, law enforcement agents seized truckloads of counterfeit items that, had they been genuine, would be valued at over \$7 million. Items seized from CHEN ranged from inferior power strips marked with the "uL" quality symbol to counterfeit purses purporting to be from manufacturers like Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana, and Fendi, to jewelry purporting to be from manufacturers like Tiffany and Juicy Couture. CHEN also admitted that he structured his cash deposits to banks in order to avoid generating a Currency Transaction Report from the bank.

CHEN is scheduled to be sentenced by Senior District Judge Frank C. Damrell Jr. on Monday, May 10, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. He faces the maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory sentencing factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables.

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