



# Department of Justice

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## **CAPE CORAL MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MULTIPLE CHARGES IN FEDERAL COURT**

Fort Myers, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that Brandon T. Albanito (25, Cape Coral) today pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawful production of false identification documents (false driver's licenses); two counts of unlawful transfer of false identification documents; one count of using a fictitious name to conduct unlawful business by means of the Postal Service; two counts of engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity (money laundering); one count of structuring currency transactions to evade reporting requirements; one count of possession with intent to distribute 3,4 Methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as MDMA or Ecstasy; one count of possession with intent to distribute Psilocyn (hallucinogenic mushrooms); and one count of possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon. Each false identification charge carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in federal prison, the fictitious name charge has a maximum penalty of 5 years in federal prison. Each money laundering and structuring charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. Albanito also faces a maximum penalty of 20 years on each of the drug charges and 10 years on the firearms charge.

According to the plea agreement, since at least August of 2008, Albanito produced

and distributed false driver's licenses to underage teenagers throughout the United States, through a referral e-mail account. Albanito utilized the cash proceeds of this operation to personally enrich himself. Funds obtained through this illegal business were structured into bank accounts and laundered by purchasing assets. Albanito operated this false driver's license operation by creating and mailing false driver's licenses from Cape Coral, and receiving documentation and cash through the U.S. Mail using a P.O. box obtained in a fictitious name. The false driver's licenses distributed by Albanito were high quality counterfeit state driver's licenses costing customers about \$150 each.

According to the plea agreement, on July 29, 2010, United States Secret Service Agents and Postal Service Inspectors arrested Albanito pursuant to a federal arrest warrant. A federal search warrant was executed at his residence located in Cape Coral. During the search, among the items located and seized was in excess of \$860,040.00 in cash, a loaded .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol, marijuana, cocaine, MDMA powder (Ecstasy), Psilocyn, and over 4000 empty pill capsules and small baggies. After waiving his *Miranda* rights, Albanito admitted that all the drugs in the residence belonged to him. Albanito also stated that he had made at least \$1 million from his false driver's license scheme.

In the plea agreement, Albanito agreed to forfeit to the United States \$868,040.00 in United States currency, a 2010 Lexus Vehicle, real property located at 801 West Cape Estates Circle in Cape Coral, jewelry, an iPhone, numerous computers and software programs, a Caspian Arms .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol and Remington .45 caliber ammunition.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Cape Coral Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey F. Michelland.