

NEWS

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Man Admits Robbing West Windsor Bank

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TRENTON – An Oradell man pleaded guilty today to a one-count Information charging him with robbing a Hudson City Savings Bank in Mercer County, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Albert Voute, 32, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Anne E. Thompson to one count of bank robbery. Judge Thompson ordered the defendant's continued detention pending sentencing, which is scheduled for April 23, 2007. Voute has remained in federal detention since his arrested on Dec.27, 2005.

At his plea hearing, Voute admitted that he robbed a Hudson City Savings Bank branch located in West Windsor on Dec. 20, 2005. Voute admitted he fled the bank with approximately \$3,000. Furthermore, Voute acknowledged that he robbed another Hudson City Savings Bank branch in New Milford on December 23, 2005, and a Washington Mutual Bank in Emerson, on December 27, 2005.

Voute, who shortly before committing the robberies had been released from prison after serving a lengthy prison term for robbing a series of banks in 1994, is required as part of today's plea to make restitution to the two Hudson City Saving Bank branches for a total amount of \$5,800. The monies robbed from the Washington Mutual bank were recovered from the defendant when he was arrested by law enforcement on December 27, 2005.

The *modus operandi* of each robbery was similar in nature, but the first robbery perhaps best describes Voute's actions. On December 20, at approximately 2:40 p.m., Voute entered the bank and approached a teller and demanded the teller give him twenties, fifties, and one hundreds, referring to U.S. Currency. Voute then told the teller he would pull a gun if she did not proceed faster. He then exited the bank with the proceeds and took a taxi to Trenton, where from he travel by train to New York. Voute stayed in New York for a few days before returning to New Jersey to commit the other two bank robberies.

Voute faces a statutory maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000.00 fine on the one count Information.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI Trenton Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Leslie G. Wiser, in Newark, with the investigation.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Levy of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Trenton.

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Defense Counsel: Scott A. Krasny, Esq., West Trenton