

For Immediate Release  
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**LAS VEGAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROBBING WELLS  
FARGO BANK IN SANTA FE ON FEBRUARY 12, 2011**

ALBUQUERQUE – United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, this morning in federal court in Albuquerque, **Eric Schlenker**, 43, pleaded guilty to robbing a Wells Fargo Bank branch in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on February 12, 2011. At sentencing, Schlenker faces a maximum twenty-year term of imprisonment. Schlenker has been in federal custody since his arrest on February 17, 2011 and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

Schlenker, a resident of Las Vegas, New Mexico, was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Santa Fe Police Department (SFPD) based on a criminal complaint. He subsequently was indicted for bank robbery on March 9, 2011.

According to the criminal complaint, on the morning of February 12, 2011, the FBI and SFPD responded to a report that the Wells Fargo Bank branch located inside the Albertsons Grocery Store at 3001 St. Francis Drive in Santa Fe (Bank) had been robbed. Bank employees reported that a male subject handed a bank teller a note demanding cash and stating that he was armed. They further reported that the subject verbally demanded cash from two bank tellers and told them he had a gun. After the two bank tellers gave the subject the money in their drawers, the suspect departed the Bank on foot.

The complaint alleged that, on February 17, 2011, a witness notified the FBI and SFPD that, while shopping at the Albertsons with Schlenker a few weeks before, Schlenker told the witness that it would be easy to rob the Bank located in that store. The witness also reported that, in the week following the robbery at the Bank, Schlenker claimed to have money despite

the fact that he was unemployed. Thereafter, the witness identified Schlenker from a still photograph of the bank robber taken by a surveillance video-camera when the Bank was robbed on February 12, 2011.

Thereafter, the witness assisted the FBI and SFPD by setting up a meeting with Schlenker. When an FBI agent and an SFPD officer arrived at the pre-arranged meeting location, they approached a man matching Schlenker's description and identified themselves as law enforcement officers. Schlenker responded by fleeing but was apprehended by the FBI agent and SFPD officer after a brief foot chase. Following Schlenker's arrest, the two victim bank tellers identified Schlenker as the man who robbed the Bank on February 12, 2011.

In his plea agreement, Schlenker admitted robbing the Bank on February 12, 2011 as well as threatening a bank teller. To this end, Schlenker admitted passing a note to the bank teller that read "I have a gun open your drawer put all the \$ on Counter." Schlenker stated that, after the bank teller complied with his demands by giving him U.S. currency, he left the Bank with the currency.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David M. Walsh, and was investigated by the FBI and SFPD.

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