

For Immediate Release
May 18, 2011

**HOBBS MAN CONVICTED OF FAILING TO
REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDER**

LAS CRUCES – United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that earlier today, a federal jury sitting in Las Cruces convicted **Robert Walter Forster**, 67, of Hobbs, New Mexico, of failure to update his sex offender registration. At sentencing, Forster faces a maximum penalty of ten years of imprisonment and a life term of supervised release. Forster has been in federal custody since his arrest on December 21, 2010, and will remain detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been set.

Forster was charged with violating 18 U.S.C. § 2250(a), which makes it a crime for a person who is required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) to fail to update their registration after traveling in interstate or foreign commerce. The evidence at trial established that Forster was required to register under SORNA because of a conviction in 2000 for a sex offense in Ohio. In 2009, Forster registered his address in Mesquite, New Mexico with the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office. Forster failed to update his registration when he moved from the Mesquite address in March 2010. Between March 2010 and December 2010, Forster traveled outside New Mexico, including a trip to Kentucky and two trips to the Philippines. During this time, Forster failed to update his registration to reflect that he had moved from his Mesquite, New Mexico address.

The case was investigated by the United States Marshal's Service and the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stephen Wong and Ravi Sinha.

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11-231