

Department of Justice

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MILLPORT MAN INDICTED ON DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. and Acting Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Wilbert L. Plummer announced today that a federal grand jury in Rochester has returned a six-count Indictment charging John Barton, 38, of 1334 Roloson Hollow Road, Millport, N.Y., with conspiracy to manufacture and possession of 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, using his residence to manufacture, distribution and use of methamphetamine and marijuana, and possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking activities.

The drug charges carry a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years and a maximum penalty of life, the gun charge a consecutive mandatory minimum penalty of five years, a \$10,000,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Moynihan, who is handling the case, stated that on May 18, 2011, members of the New York State Police, Schuyler County Sheriff's Office, Schuyler County District Attorney's Office, Village of Watkins Glen Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration executed a state court-authorized search warrant at Barton's residence. According to the Indictment, the search included the search of a shed on the property. The Indictment further alleges that law enforcement officers discovered an active methamphetamine laboratory and recovered marijuana and substances which tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine. In the shed, law enforcement officers also recovered seven long guns, one of which was loaded, as well as a .45 caliber handgun, which was also loaded. In addition, officers located and seized over \$8,000 in U.S. Currency. Ten long guns were also seized from inside Barton's house.

"The abuse of methamphetamine, besides being a serious health issue, is a growing problem in many parts of the country," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "We, along with our

federal, state and local partners, will vigorously prosecute those who produce and traffic in this highly dangerous and addictive substance.”

In July 2011, Barton, Shawn Rickard, of Elmira, N.Y., and Chad Speicher, of Beaver Dam, N.Y., were arrested and charged by Criminal Complaint on charges related to this case.

The Indictment is the culmination of an investigation by the Schuyler County District Attorney’s Office, under the direction of District Attorney Joseph Fazzari, Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division, New York State Police Community Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) under the direction of Major Wayne C. Olson, the Schuyler County Sheriff’s Department, under the direction of Sheriff William Yessman, and the Watkins Glen Police Department, under the direction of Chief Thomas R. Struble.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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