

Department of Justice

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MAN SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT BANK FRAUD

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Jeffrey D. Betts, 30, of Buffalo, New York, who was convicted of conspiracy to commit bank fraud, was sentenced to 24 months in prison and five years supervised release by U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara. Judge Arcara also ordered Betts to make restitution.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti, who handled the case, stated that Betts and co-defendant, Reginald Wideman, were ring leaders who recruited others to cash approximately 150 forged checks totaling over \$100,000 as part of the scheme to defraud. All sixteen defendants pleaded guilty in the case.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, under the direction of Tracy Gast, Special Agent in Charge.

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