

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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BUFFALO MAN CONVICTED OF DRUG CHARGE

BUFFALO, N.Y. - U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Jesus Antonio Cotto, 43, of Buffalo, N.Y., was convicted late Friday evening, after a jury trial, of possession with intent to distribute cocaine. The charge carries a minimum penalty of five years in prison, a maximum of 40, a \$5,000,000 million fine, or both. , when sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny, who presided over the trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Thomas S. Duszkiwicz and Frank T. Pimentel handled the prosecution of the case. As shown by the evidence at trial, the defendant was found to be in possession of approximately nine ounces of cocaine and a digital scale when he was stopped by police after leaving his residence at 53 Arkansas Street in Buffalo. A later search of the residence revealed an additional nine ounces of cocaine, another digital scale, packaging material for three kilograms of cocaine, and a Hi-Point model CF 380, .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol. Cotto was observed by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration prior to the stop negotiating to sell the nine ounces of cocaine.

The verdict is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Brian R. Crowell, Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division, with the assistance Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Frank J. Christiano, Resident Agent in Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 9, 2013 before Judge Skretny.

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