

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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MAN IS SENTENCED FOR STEALING FEMA BENEFITS

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Jonathan Etienne, 24, of Rochester, NY, who was convicted of theft of public money, was sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay \$10,391.51 in restitution by U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who handled the case, stated that in October 2005, while residing in the Western District of New York, the defendant applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster assistance for damages he allegedly suffered as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Etienne claimed that at the time the storm made landfall in August 2005, he was residing in New Orleans, Louisiana and was forced to relocate. As a result, Etienne received \$10,391.51 in FEMA funding to which he was not entitled.

The sentence was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Greg Null, Special Agent in Charge.

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