

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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BUFFALO MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG CONSPIRACY CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y. – U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Vivian James, 49, of Buffalo, N.Y., who was convicted of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute, and the distribution of, a controlled substance, was sentenced to 57 months in prison and four years supervised released, by U.S. District Court Chief Judge William M. Skretny.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Catherine Baumgarten, who handled the case, stated that the defendant was one of 15 defendants arrested in June 2009 for distributing Ecstasy pills, imported from Canada, in the City of Buffalo, and beyond. James is the 14th defendant to be sentenced. Charges are still pending against the remaining defendant. 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.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero.

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