

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 13, 2012  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw)

CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS  
PHONE: (716) 843-5817  
FAX: (716) 551-3051

## JURY CONVICTS NYC POLICE OFFICE OF SMUGGLING

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Richard Lee, 31, of Queens, N.Y., was found guilty of smuggling after a jury trial before United States District Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Fauzia K. Mattingly, who handled the prosecution of the case, stated that on February 22, 2010, the defendant, a New York City Police Officer, attempted to enter the United States from Canada at the Rainbow Bridge. Lee was driving a 1997 Honda Civic with license plates issued to a company, Pro Auto Sales, run by the defendant and his father. During a secondary inspection of the car, the defendant claimed to be the owner of the vehicle but a record check determined that the vehicle was registered to a Canadian resident.

With the defendant's conviction, the case continues tomorrow with a forfeiture proceeding. In this proceeding--seldom utilized in Western New York--the same jury will determine whether certain property of the defendant's should be forfeited to the government.

At sentencing, the defendant faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both. The conviction is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero.

###