

# Department of Justice

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

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## **SOUTHERN TIER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COCAINE AND MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING**

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that James Leon, 52, of Steamburg, N.Y., pleaded guilty before District Judge Richard J. Arcara to conspiring to distribute over 15 kilograms of cocaine and 700 kilograms of marijuana. The charges carry a minimum penalty of 20 years in prison, a maximum of life, a \$20,000,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael L. McCabe, who is handling the case, stated that on November 15, 2011, Special Agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration seized approximately eight kilograms of cocaine and 100 pounds of marijuana from a co-conspirator of the defendant's at a residence on St. Amelia Drive in Tonawanda. Leon was obtaining cocaine and marijuana from a source-of-supply in Houston, Texas, which he then distributed to customers in the Western New York area. The co-conspirator, Richard Himbury, also pleaded guilty to drug-trafficking and is scheduled to be sentenced on December 12, 2012. Leon's sentencing is scheduled for February 4, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. before Judge Arcara.

The plea is the result of a joint and continuing 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, Investigators from the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Commissioner Daniel Derenda, the Lockport Police Department, under the direction of Chief Lawrence Eggert, the Tonawanda Police Department, under the direction of Chief Anthony Palombo, the Amherst Police Department, under the direction of Chief John Askey, the Erie County Sherriff's Department, under the direction of Sheriff Tim Howard, the Lancaster Police Department, under the direction of Chief Gerald Gill, the Cattaraugus County Sherriff's Department, under the direction of Sheriff Timothy Whitcomb and the Southern Tier Regional Drug Task Force.

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