

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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BUFFALO WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRING TO SELL PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Joanne Lott, 62, of Buffalo, pleaded guilty to conspiring to sell OxyContin. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a fine of \$1,000,000 or both.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael L. McCabe, who prosecuted the case, Lott was arrested along with 34 others in July 2010 following a long-term investigation into the widespread illegal sale of prescription drugs in the City of Buffalo and its eastern suburbs during the spring and summer of 2010. Lott pleaded guilty to selling prescribed OxyContin pills to Michael McCall -- an alleged street supplier of OxyContin pills in the City of Buffalo. The defendant is the 27th defendant to be convicted. McCall has been indicted and is awaiting trial. He is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

“While this Office will continue to utilize the federal criminal law as appropriate, the public needs to also be reminded of the important role they play in preventing the abuse of prescription pills,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “Parents and grandparents, please secure your medicine cabinets. Be aware of any change in your child’s behavior, which could be an early warning sign of prescription pill misuse. Finally, discuss with your medical professional any concerns you may have, or feel free to contact this Office or our law enforcement partners for further information.”

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division in conjunction with many local and state authorities such as the New York State Police, the Buffalo Police Department, the

Cheektowaga Police Department, the West Seneca Police Department and the Lancaster Police Department.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 8, 2012 before Judge Skretny.

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