

# Department of Justice

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

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## **ROCHESTER COUPLE PLEADS GUILTY TO SELLING COUNTERFEIT MERCHANDISE**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Fan Zhang, 40, and her husband, Deno Delregno 50, both of Rochester, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Charles Siragusa, to conspiracy to traffic in counterfeit goods. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a fine of 250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael DiGiacomo who is handling the case, stated that beginning in May of 2010, the defendants agreed with other individuals to sell counterfeit designer purses, handbags and wallets in and around Rochester. Both Zhang and Delregno traveled from Rochester to New York City to purchase purses, handbags and wallets along with corresponding counterfeit emblems and patches bearing the names of actual designers and manufactures. These designers included Coach, Gucci, Burberry and Dolce & Gabbana. The defendants then affixed the counterfeit marks on the items and sold them to the public as a true products. The total infringement amount associated with the defendants conduct exceeded \$400,000. As part of the plea agreement, Zhang and Delregno agreed to forfeit various monies and automobiles.

"The intellectual property of American companies is what makes this country grow and prosper," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "For this reason, our Office will continue to vigorously enforce the laws which protect the assets and creative ideas of our citizens. Those who knowingly buy counterfeit products are also reminded that this is not a victimless crime, and that depending upon the product, their health, their livelihoods, and their community could be hurt by such purchases."

Today's pleas are part of a larger department-wide effort led by the Department of Justice Task Force on Intellectual Property (IP Task Force). Attorney General Eric Holder created the IP Task Force to combat the growing number of domestic and international

intellectual property crimes, protect the health and safety of American consumers, and safeguard the nation's economic security against those who seek to profit illegally from American creativity, innovation and hard work. The IP Task Force seeks to strengthen intellectual property rights protection through heightened criminal and civil enforcement, greater coordination among federal, state and local law enforcement partners, and increased focus on international enforcement efforts, including reinforcing relationships with key foreign partners and U.S. industry leaders. To learn more about the IP Task Force, go to <http://www.justice.gov/dag/iptaskforce/>

The pleas are the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero and the New York State Police, under the direction of Major Mark Koss.

Zhang and Delregno will be sentenced on January 14, 2013 at 2:15 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. respectively before Judge Siragusa.

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