

Department of Justice

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CANADIEN CITIZENS SENTENCED FOR SMUGGLING ATTEMPT

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Canadien citizens Bradley Ruitter, 20, and his father Richard Ruitter, 47, were sentenced for attempting to smuggle a motor vehicle into the United States. Bradley Ruitter pleaded guilty to smuggling goods into the United States and was sentenced to one year probation by Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny. Richard Ruitter, who was convicted of refusing to assist a customs officer, was also sentenced to one year probation by U.S. Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroeder.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell T. Ippolito, Jr., who handled the case, stated that Bradley and Richard Ruitter attempted to bring the motor vehicle into the United States in order to sell it to a prospective buyer from Massachusetts. The vehicle, a Mazda Miata, was a right-hand-drive vehicle, and did not meet a host of federal motor vehicle safety standards. Bradley Ruitter switched the license plate on the vehicle in order to conceal the real purpose of the defendants' entry into the United States.

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

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