

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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WOMAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN FEMA FRAUD OFFENSE

Rochester, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Torrasha M. Smith, 27, of Rochester, NY, who was convicted of theft of government funds, was sentenced to five years of probation, including 6 months of electronic monitoring, by U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa. Smith was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$15,815.51 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to be paid jointly and severally with co-defendant Anthony Gibson.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa J. Miller, who handled the case, stated that the defendant assisted co-defendant Anthony J. Gibson in efforts to receive federal disaster assistance benefits from FEMA, following the landfall of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Gibson's application for FEMA benefits included false rental receipts prepared by Smith. At the time Hurricane Katrina struck, Smith was living in Rochester, NY. As a result of the false paperwork, Smith and Gibson received \$15,815.51, to which they were not entitled.

Co-defendant Anthony Gibson is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Siragusa on July 5, 2011 at 10 a.m.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent In Charge Greg Null.

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