

Department of Justice

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THREE PLEAD GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL SALE OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Rachel Hall, 35, of Rochester, New York, Katrina Lewin, 23, of Buffalo, New York and Jacob Winkowski, 21, of Cheektowaga, New York, all pleaded guilty to the unlawful sale of prescription medication before Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a fine of \$1,000,000 or both.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael L. McCabe, who is handling the case, Lewin and Hall both pleaded guilty to selling fentanyl, a powerful pain killer, in March 2010, while Winkowski pleaded guilty to distributing OxyContin pills to customers in the Cheektowaga/Lancaster area. One of those customers was Justin Doyle, an alleged supplier of prescription medication who sold pills from his workplace at a gas station at William and Union in Cheektowaga. The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Lewin, Hall and Winkowski were arrested along with 32 others in July, 2010. To date, 21 have been convicted.

"These convictions show the continuing efforts of this Office--as well as our law enforcement partners--to address the emerging and serious health problem that abuse of prescription drugs poses," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "As these convictions make clear, those who traffic in these substances will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

The pleas are the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Special Agent-in-Charge Dale Kasprzyk, 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.

Hall and Lewin are scheduled to be sentenced on September 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. before Judge Skretny. Winkowski will be sentenced on September 12, 2011 at 9:00 a.m., also before for Winkowski.

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