

Department of Justice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 13, 2011
www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

CONTACT: BARBARA J. BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

TWO DAY CONFERENCE FOCUSING ON SOCIAL NETWORKING

BUFFALO, N.Y. - U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that the U.S. Attorney's Office is hosting a two-day conference, today and tomorrow, focusing on social networking and the role it plays in criminal investigations.

The conference is bringing together federal, state and local law enforcement officials from across the WNY region and Canada. The course is offering presentations on the technology skills needed to conduct investigations. These skills include tracking online communication and using social networking sites (Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc.) as investigative and analytical tools.

"As technology continues to grow and expand, criminals are taking advantage of new opportunities online to victimize unsuspecting individuals," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "We are seeing more and more crimes in our Office involving the Internet, such as child pornography, identity theft and fraud. We have also seen criminals – such as gang members – flout their accomplishments on-line."

"Greater use of social media by criminals means that investigators who understand this electronic environment have a greater chance of solving crime. This conference will give law enforcement officials the tools they need to prosecute online criminals, and enhance our ability to protect the public we serve."

The two-day conference runs today and tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Niagara Falls Conference Center. It is sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Northeast Counter Terrorism Center, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Magloclen, the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy and Niagara University Continuing Education.