

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 14, 2011
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FUGITIVE EXTRADITED FROM CANADA PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG IMPORTATION

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Andrew Lee Wayne, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny, to importation of ecstasy. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison, a fine of \$2,000,000.00 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Clare Kane, who is handling the case, stated that on December 30, 2006, the defendant attempted to enter the United States from Canada at the Lewiston Bridge Port of Entry. During a secondary inspection, a Customs and Border Patrol officer discovered a plastic bag in Wayne's jacket that contained approximately 1,800 ecstasy tablets. The defendant admitted that he was holding ecstasy pills. Wayne was subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury but during the course of the criminal proceedings, the defendant failed to return to the United States for prosecution and was declared a fugitive. The United States Attorney's Office applied for a warrant of Extradition from Canada, and Wayne was returned on that warrant of Extradition on May 25, 2011.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of James C. Spero .

Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 25, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Skretny.