

Department of Justice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 26, 2012
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CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

WOMAN SENTENCED IN WIRE FRAUD CASE

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Helen Weber, 64, of Amherst, N.Y., who was convicted of wire fraud, was sentenced to six months in prison by U.S. District Court Richard J. Arcara. The defendant was also ordered to pay \$65,095 in restitution to the victims.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Maura K. O'Donnell, who handled the case, stated that the defendant participated in a scheme that involved victims being contacted by a third party who advised them that they had won a monetary prize or were eligible to be part of an investment program. Victims were then instructed to wire money to the defendant in order to collect their prize or to receive a return on their investment.

The defendant stole a portion of the money transferred to her from the victims and wired the remaining funds to other perpetrators of the scheme, many of whom were overseas. Weber had previously been warned by law enforcement to stay away from such schemes.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Secret Service, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Tracy Gast.

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