

Department of Justice

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

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

MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON IN WIRE TAP CASE

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that James Wiggins, 40, of Rochester, New York, who was convicted of felony charges of money laundering as well as conspiracy to distribute cocaine, cocaine base and heroin, was sentenced to 20 years in prison followed by 10 years of supervised release by U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Noto, who handled the case, stated that the defendant and eleven others were arrested in February 2010 after a nearly year long investigation conducted by Federal and State authorities. The investigation utilized multiple law enforcement techniques, including court-authorized interception of cellular telephone communications.

The investigation determined that the defendant was involved in a drug conspiracy operating primarily on the West side of the City of Rochester. Wiggins supplied multiple drug houses with large amounts of cocaine, crack cocaine and heroin in Rochester, and laundered tens of thousands of dollars of drug proceeds through area casinos.

To date, nine of the twelve defendants have entered guilty pleas; Wiggins is the second defendant to be sentenced.

The plea was the culmination of a multi-agency investigation under the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) initiative. Federal and State law enforcement agencies, including Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearm and Explosives, under the direction of Scott Heagney, Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Timothy Kernan, Special Agents of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service under the direction of Jarod Koopman, and officers from the Greater Rochester Area Narcotics Enforcement Team, under the direction of Lt. Joseph Morabito worked in concert with the United States Attorney's Office in the year long investigation.