

Department of Justice

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn
Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 6, 2009
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CONTACT: Peggy Kelly McFarland
PHONE: (716) 843-5877
FAX: (716) 551-3051

FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PLEAD GUILTY TO STEALING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

BUFFALO, N.Y.--Richard Lawson, Lisa Schwab, and Leonard Iannello, former employees of the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia NY, pleaded guilty yesterday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeremiah J. McCarthy to a misdemeanor charge of Theft of Government Property, U.S. Attorney Terrance P. Flynn of the Western District of New York announced today. Theft of Government Property carries a maximum penalty of 1 year in prison and/or a fine of up to \$100,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Murphy, who handled the case, stated Richard Lawson, a uniformed member of Public Health Service Commission Corp. and former Pharmacist at the Detention Facility along with, former Pharmacist Technician Lisa Schwab, took prescription medication intended for prisoners and distributed it to fellow workers at the facility while keeping some for themselves. Iannello, a former contract guard at the Facility received prescription medication from Lawson and Schwab.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under the direction of Department of Homeland Security Inspector General's Office..

Sentencing is scheduled for February 26, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeremiah J. McCarthy.