



NEWS RELEASE

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OCTOBER 21, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO CALIFORNIANS PLEAD GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING ECSTASY, MONEY LAUNDERING

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two California residents pleaded guilty in federal court today to distributing ecstasy and money laundering.

Robert P. Sanchez, Jr., 27, and **Martine C. Scorza**, 34, both of California, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning in Kansas City.

By pleading guilty, **Sanchez** admitted that he agreed to distribute ecstasy between Dec. 1, 2000, and March 11, 2003, in Kansas City. **Sanchez** admitted that he facilitated the distribution of 125,000 MDMA pills during that time period.

Sanchez also admitted that he agreed to conduct financial transactions with funds that he knew to be the proceeds of ecstasy distribution. The transactions involved the transfer of proceeds through the direct bank deposit of cash by ecstasy customers into the defendant's California checking account.

By pleading guilty, **Scorza** admitted that she also agreed to distribute ecstasy between Dec. 1, 2000, and March 11, 2003, in Kansas City. **Scorza** admitted that she brokered ecstasy transactions. The first transaction resulted in the distribution of 13,000 tablets represented to be ecstasy and the second transaction resulted in the distribution of 5,000 ecstasy tablets.

Scorza also admitted that she agreed to conduct financial transactions with funds that she knew to be the proceeds of ecstasy distribution.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Sanchez** and **Scorza** may each be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole and a fine of up to \$1 million. Their sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be

scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow