



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian
Northern District of New York**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and Special Agent in Charge James E. Tomlinson, Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) announce that DANIELLE HALL pled guilty yesterday in front of the Honorable William Sessions, United States District Court Judge for the District of Vermont, to Obstruction of Justice in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1503.

In 2008, HALL was a legal assistant with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Vermont. HALL entered into a plea agreement with the United States, whereby she admitted that, in February and March 2008, she provided information regarding an ongoing Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and federal grand jury investigation to a target of that investigation, Michael Ryan. HALL obtained the information by accessing the U.S. Attorney's Office's network and case tracking system. At that time, HALL and Ryan were involved in a romantic relationship. Ryan has since pled guilty to drug conspiracy charges and is awaiting sentencing.

As part of the plea agreement, the United States and HALL have agreed that HALL should be sentenced to a term of three years probation with two special conditions: (1) that HALL serve six months home confinement and (2) that HALL complete 150 hours of community service. The agreed upon sentence is binding on the Court, unless the Court rejects the plea agreement. Should the Court reject the plea agreement, HALL would have the right to withdraw her plea of guilty. Sentencing is currently set for May 14, 2012 at 1:30 pm in front of the Honorable William K. Sessions.

As a result of the nature of the criminal conduct, the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Vermont is recused and the case is being prosecuted on its behalf by the Northern District of New York.

The indictment is the result of an investigation by the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel C. Gardner.

Inquiries may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel C. Gardner at (518) 314-7800 or Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John G. Duncan at (315) 448-0672.