



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 14, 2008**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
YUSILL SCRIBNER,  
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600**

**BOOKER FOR PROSTITUTION RING PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL  
PROSTITUTION CONSPIRACY AND MONEY LAUNDERING OFFENSES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that TEMEKA RACHELLE LEWIS, 32, of Brooklyn, NY, pleaded guilty today to conspiracy charges stemming from her participation in the international prostitution and money-laundering ring Emperors Club VIP (the "Emperors Club"). LEWIS entered the guilty plea before United States Magistrate Judge THEODORE H. KATZ in Manhattan federal court. According to the Information and other documents filed in this case, as well as statements made during LEWIS' guilty plea proceeding:

LEWIS participated, from November 2005 until March 2008, in a conspiracy to promote, manage, and carry on an illegal prostitution business, to transport women, and to induce women to travel, in interstate commerce with the intent that the women engage in unlawful prostitution. Specifically, among other things, LEWIS arranged over the phone in January 2008 for a prostitute to meet a man at a hotel in New York, New York, and on another occasion, for a prostitute to travel from New York to Washington, D.C. to meet a man in his hotel room.

LEWIS also conspired to conceal the customers' illegal payments for prostitution services by encouraging customers to make the payments to a purported consulting company, in order to disguise the nature of the payments.

LEWIS faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison on the prostitution conspiracy count and twenty years in prison on the money laundering conspiracy count. Sentencing is scheduled for August 6, 2008 before United States District Judge SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigative Division in this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys BOYD M. JOHNSON III,  
DANIEL L. STEIN and RITA GLAVIN are in charge of the prosecution.

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