

Department of Justice

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<u>CALIFORNIA WOMAN INDICTED FOR TRANSPORTING MORE THAN 500</u> <u>POUNDS OF MARIJUANA TO COLUMBUS ABOARD PRIVATE JET</u>

COLUMBUS – A federal grand jury here today indicted Lisette Lee, 28, of Los Angeles, California with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana and one count of possession with intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Anthony Marotta, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Columbus, announced the indictment.

DEA agents arrested Lee on June 14, 2010 after she and three other people landed at Port Columbus International Airport on a private jet chartered to fly them from Van Nuys, California. Agents found 23 bales of marijuana weighing approximately 229.9 kilograms/505.78 pounds of marijuana in 13 large suitcases that had been offloaded from the private plane carrying Lee. The three persons who were travelling with Lee have not been charged at this time.

Each crime is punishable by at least five and up to 40 years imprisonment and carries a potential fine of \$2 million.

Lee has been in custody since her arrest. A detention hearing for Lee is scheduled before U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Preston Deavers at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 18. An arraignment on the indictment will be scheduled by U.S. District Judge Algenon L. Marbley, who is presiding over the case.

Stewart commended the DEA agents who are conducting the ongoing investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Prichard, who is prosecuting the case.

An indictment is merely an accusation. A defendant should be presumed innocent unless convicted in court.

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