



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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**CHUCK ROSENBERG, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Jim Rybicki  
Public Information Officer  
Phone: (703)842-4050 Fax: (703)549-5202  
E-Mail: [usavae.press@usdoj.gov](mailto:usavae.press@usdoj.gov)  
Website: [www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae)

## **Former Special Education Teacher Sentenced for Child Sexual Enticement**

**(Alexandria, VA)** - Steven M. Bennof, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to 60 months in prison for attempting to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual conduct. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema, who also ordered Bennof to register as a sex offender and serve ten years of supervised release after he is released from prison. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement. Bennof had pled guilty to the charges on July 19, 2006.

According to court documents, Bennof, who was a Special Education teacher with Prince Georges County Schools in Maryland, engaged in a number of chat sessions on the Internet with a person he believed to be a 13 year-old boy. Bennof discussed sexual acts he wanted to engage in with the boy and sought assurances that the boy's father would be out of town during the sexual encounters. On August 17, 2005, Steven Bennof drove to a residence in Herndon, Virginia where he hoped to meet the boy for a sexual encounter.

The case was investigated by the FBI and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gerald J. Smagala and Edmund P. Power.

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