



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias  
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

## **THREE SENTENCED IN MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR COUNTERFEIT GOODS SCHEME**

### ***Group imported and sold over \$2 million of counterfeit sports jerseys over eBay***

Atlanta, GA - ZACHARY HURLEY, 28, and JONATHAN PORTWOOD, 26, of Atlanta, GA, and STEPHEN PIWOWAR, 46, of Marietta, GA, were sentenced today by United States District Judge Beverly B. Martin on charges of conspiracy to traffic in counterfeit goods. Defendant HURLEY was also sentenced on a substantive charge of importing and trafficking counterfeit goods.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "This case involved a multi-million dollar international counterfeiting scheme, which distributed tens of thousands of counterfeit NFL, NBA, and other sports jerseys to the public using the eBay Internet auction service. We will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute those who peddle counterfeit goods and thereby steal the intellectual property of our Nation's businesses."

HURLEY was sentenced to 51 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$381,651 and forfeit \$650,000 in crime proceeds. PORTWOOD was sentenced to 5 years of probation with 6 months home confinement and 150 hours of community service, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$165,426.22. PIWOWAR was sentenced to 15 months in prison to be followed by 2 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$40,245.71. The three were convicted of these charges in February 2008.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: HURLEY established a contact to supply him with counterfeit sports jerseys while stationed with the U.S. Army in South Korea. After returning to the United States, HURLEY recruited others, including PORTWOOD and PIWOWAR, to sell the counterfeit sports jerseys he would import. The conspirators would use eBay and PayPal accounts registered under a variety of names. In this manner, HURLEY and his accomplices imported and sold tens of thousands of counterfeit NFL, NBA, and other

jerseys, grossing over \$2.25 million. In addition, authorities executed search warrants, seizing over 22,000 more counterfeit jerseys that HURLEY imported and intended to be sold, having a retail price exceeding \$2 million. Authorities later learned that even after his arrest, HURLEY continued to import and sell counterfeit goods, in particular, counterfeit golf clubs, through another accomplice over eBay.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Assistant United States Attorney Lawrence R. Sommerfeld prosecuted the case. Special Assistant United States Attorney Gerald Sachs handled matters relating to the forfeiture of the crime proceeds and restitution.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).