



PRESS RELEASE

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ALBUQUERQUE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
ARMED BANK ROBBERY CHARGE

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court, Steven Bernardoni, 49, of Albuquerque, pled guilty to an indictment charging him with armed bank robbery under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s Office. At sentencing, Bernardoni faces a maximum penalty of 25 years of imprisonment, five years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. Bernardoni has been in federal custody since his arrest on Nov. 7, 2011, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been set.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Bernardoni pled guilty to robbing the Bank of Albuquerque (Bank) located at 3901 Southern Blvd., Rio Rancho, N.M., on Nov. 4, 2011. According to the criminal complaint, Bernardoni walked into the bank, vaulted the teller counter and entered the secure area, pointed a handgun at the tellers and verbally demanded money. The tellers complied and Bernardoni vaulted the teller counter and exited the Bank.

Rio Rancho Police Officers immediately arrived on scene and observed a male subject fitting the description of the robber exit the Bank, carrying a light colored cloth bag that was covered in dye material. After a brief foot chase, the subject was taken into custody and later identified as Steven Bernardoni. Bernardoni was transported to the FBI’s Albuquerque office, where he confessed to robbing the Bank.

In his plea agreement, Bernardoni admitted robbing the Bank by brandishing a firearm and intimidating three bank tellers into giving him a large amount of currency. Under the terms of his plea agreement, Bernardoni is required to pay full restitution to the Bank.

The case was investigated by the FBI and the Rio Rancho Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles L. Barth.

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