



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Elizabeth M. Martinez
Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney
Public Affairs Officer
elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov
505.224.1469

For Immediate Release

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SANTA CLARA PUEBLO MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON
FOR FEDERAL ASSAULT CONVICTION

ALBUQUERQUE – This afternoon, a federal judge sentenced James Victor Eckleberry, 27, to a 18-month term of imprisonment for his assault conviction. Eckleberry, a member of the Santa Clara Pueblo who resides in Espanola, N.M., will be on supervised release for three years after completing his prison sentence.

Eckleberry was arrested on April 20, 2011, and has been in federal custody since that time. On May 12, 2012, Eckleberry pled guilty to an information charging him with assault resulting in serious bodily injury. In entering his guilty plea, Eckleberry admitted that, on Sept. 30, 2009, he repeatedly hit another Santa Clara Pueblo man with the intention of causing him bodily harm. The victim had a prior injury at the time of the assault which caused the stitches from his wound to open. As a result, the victim suffered bleeding and extreme pain.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Northern Pueblos Agency and the Santa Clara Tribal Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jon K. Stanford.

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