



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

July 27, 2012

**LAS VEGAS, NEV., MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO ROBBING THREE BANKS IN MAY 2011**

ALBUQUERQUE – Earlier today in federal court, Justin A. Wolaver, 27, of Las Vegas, Nev., pled guilty to an information charging him with committing three bank robberies in May 2011, including a bank in Raton, N.M. Wolaver entered his guilty plea under a plea that requires him to serve a 15-year term of imprisonment. Wolaver has been in federal custody since his arrest on May 24, 2011, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been set.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Wolaver pled guilty to a three-count information charging him with (1) the armed robbery of Bank of America, located at 12935 U.S. Highway 19, Hudson, Fla., on May 2, 2011; (2) the robbery of Chase Bank, located at 4830 North Highway 89, Flagstaff, Ariz., on May 9, 2011; and (3) the armed robbery of the Bank of America, located at 1233 South Second Street, Raton, N.M., on May 23, 2011.

Court records reflect that Wolaver was arrested after robbing the Bank of America in Raton at gunpoint on May 23, 2011. According to the criminal complaint, Wolaver walked into the Bank, approached the bank teller, displayed a handgun, and verbally demanded money. After the bank teller provided cash to Wolaver, he fled in a small white sedan. Officers of the Raton Police Department followed the sedan with lights and sirens as it left the Bank. Officers of the New Mexico State Police and Colfax County Sheriff's Office joined the pursuit when Wolaver tried to outrun the police. Wolaver was apprehended approximately 40 miles south of Raton. After his arrest, Wolaver confessed to robbing the Bank of America. He also confessed to robbing other two banks earlier that month.

In his plea agreement, Wolaver agreed to waive his right to be prosecuted in the judicial districts where he committed the out of state crimes, and to plead guilty to the bank robberies in Florida and Arizona in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico. Wolaver also agreed to pay full restitution to each of the three victim banks.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Raton Police Department, the New Mexico State Police, and the Colfax County Sheriff's Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Shammara H. Henderson.

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