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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN DVD/CABLE PIRACY SCHEME**

*Hundreds of Counterfeit DVDs – Including Episodes of "The Sopranos" and "Six Feet Under" – And Sophisticated Manufacturing Equipment Seized From Long Island City Apartment Used as Illegal Duplicating Mill*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a strip club manager has pleaded guilty in a DVD piracy scheme in which the defendant used his Long Island City apartment as an underground DVD duplicating factory in which hundreds of counterfeit DVDs containing episodes of popular HBO and Warner Brothers cable television programs and recording and copying equipment were seized.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has now been held accountable for masterminding a counterfeiting operation which was capable of fleecing legitimate owners of trademark products out of tens of thousands of dollars and substantial sums in lost royalties and ripping off honest consumers who are forced to pay higher prices for their viewing entertainment. In addition, the operation deprived the City and State of much needed tax revenues. My office will continue to work with the Police Department and the television and movie industries to close down these illegal operations. "

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Michael C. Peranio, 33, of 32-64 45 Street in Long Island City. He pleaded guilty yesterday to Attempted Trademark Counterfeiting in the Second Degree and Failure to Disclose the Origin of a Recording in the Second Degree before Queens Criminal Court Judge Dorothy Chin Brandt who indicated that she would sentence the defendant to three years probation on April 19, 2007 and ordered him to forfeit thousands of dollars in recording and copying equipment, including two computers, eight VCRs, two DVD recorders and two video copying machines that were seized during a raid from his apartment. Also, as part of the plea agreement, the defendant paid restitution in the amount of \$10,000 to HBO.

According to the District Attorney, an investigation was initiated after bogus recordings were purchased over the internet by Signal Security Specialist Steven Rosenthal of HBO, Inc. A court-authorized search warrant was obtained by detectives assigned to the NYPD's Computer Crimes Squad and recovered from the apartment were approximately 500 DVD recordings of the "The Sopranos" and "Six Feet Under," more than 160 blank DVDs, eight VCRs, two DVD recorders, 2 desktop computers and one laptop computer. Also recovered were packing and shipping material, bank account records and other paper records.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Jeannie Finucane, of the New York City Police Department's Computer Crimes Squad, which is under the supervision of Lieutenant John Otero and the overall supervision of Captain Gregory Antonsen, the Commanding Officer of the NYPD's ID Task Force.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert D. Alexander, Unit Chief of the District Attorney's Computer Crime Unit of the Special Proceedings Bureau under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Anthony Communiello, Chief of the Special Proceedings Bureau, and Deputy Chief Oscar W. Ruiz, and the overall supervision of Executive District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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Note to Editors: E-version of press release posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).