



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000**

Release # 17-2009
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009

CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
HELEN PETERSON
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718) 286-6315

**JAMAICA MERCHANT CONVICTED
OF TRADEMARK COUNTERFEITING**

Hundreds of Counterfeit Handbags and Wallets Seized

Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Queens woman who rents space at a variety store in the Jamaica section of Queens has been convicted of trademark counterfeiting for dealing in counterfeit handbags, wallets and sunglasses bearing the brand logos of Coach, Channel and Gucci. The value of the items – if real – is estimated at \$75,000.

“Trademark counterfeiting is neither a victimless nor harmless crime – something the jury in this case obviously understood when they returned a verdict of guilty as charged after less than an hour of deliberation,” said District Attorney Brown. “Operations such as that run by the defendant fuel an underground economy. They are cash businesses that pay no taxes and rip off both the consumer and the industry by foisting inferior products into the marketplace. Such unauthorized products, which often come from offshore, steal jobs from American workers and revenue from American manufacturers.”

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Hong Wu, 43, of 134-20 57th Road in the Flushing section of Queens. Wu, who sells merchandise from a stall located at 163-19 Jamaica Avenue, was convicted today of second-degree trademark counterfeiting. Acting Supreme Court Justice Barry Kron, who presided at the three-day jury trial, set sentencing for February 27, 2009, at which time the defendant faces up to four years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, on May 11, 2007, police officers assigned to the NYPD’s 103rd Precinct executed a court-authorized search warrant at the defendant’s place of business. Items recovered included hundreds of counterfeit Coach, Gucci and Channel handbags, wallets and sunglasses.

Assistant District Attorneys Latoya S. Krider and Mark Osnowitz, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney’s Kew Gardens II Bureau, prosecuted the case, with assistance from Paralegal KellyAnn Scott, under the direct supervision of Assistant District Attorney Daniel M. Sullivan, Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

#

Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.