



NEWS RELEASE

Drew H. Wrigley
United States Attorney
District of North Dakota

655 First Ave. N. Suite 250 P. O. Box 699
Fargo, ND 58102-4932 Bismarck, ND 58502-0699
701-297-7400 701-530-2420

For Further Information Contact: Julie Hough (701-297-7400)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER MINOT MAN AND INTERNET CHEMICAL COMPANY
SENTENCED FOR SELLING DESIGNER AND MISBRANDED DRUGS
AND VIOLATING FEDERAL CUSTOMS LAWS

BISMARCK - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that on June 30, 2006, **Lee Michael Badrak** and **LTK Research Products, LLC (LTK)**, were sentenced before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L Hovland for selling designer and misbranded drugs over the internet under the guise that the drugs were intended for research purposes and for violating Federal import laws.

Badrak, 34, formerly of Minot, ND, pleaded guilty on January 19, 2006, to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substance analogues 5-Methoxy-alpha-methyltryptamine HCl (5-MeO-AMT) and 5-Methoxy-N, N-Disopropyltryptamine HCl (5-MeO-DIPT); one count of introducing the misbranded drug 2,4 Dinitrophenal (DNP) into interstate commerce; and one count of introducing the misbranded drug Nalbuphine HCl into interstate commerce.

LTK, a company owned by **Badrak** and his wife Melissa Ashley Badrak, operated between 2000 and 2004 out of Minot, selling chemicals over its internet website, WWW.LTKRESEARCHPRODUCTS.COM, to thousands of individuals throughout the United States.

LTK pleaded guilty on January 19, 2006, to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with

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intent to distribute controlled substance analogues in connection with sales of Alpha-methyltryptamine (AMT), (5-MeO-AMT), and (5-MeO-DIPT); and one count of importing goods, the chemical Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide (DXM), into the United States by means of false statements.

LTK's website suggested that it was in business to provide chemicals to researchers. However, the company had a history of selling hazardous chemicals that were being abused as recreational hallucinogens. The investigation revealed that nearly all shipments of the chemicals were sent to individuals rather than research institutions or facilities, as portrayed by the LTK website. Many of the chemicals advertised for sale by Badrak and LTK were controlled substance analogues, which are similar in chemical structure and physiological effects to illegal scheduled controlled substances, primarily hallucinogens. LTK offered for sale hallucinogenic chemicals similar in effects to 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), known on the street as Ecstasy or X, a Schedule I Controlled Substance.

Designer drug sellers try to evade the law by selling newly created analogue drugs which are similar to Ecstasy, but have not yet been scheduled as illegal drugs by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Sales of the dangerous designer drugs for personal consumption are illegal under Federal drug laws, and numerous overdoses have been traced to these illegal analogue designer drugs.

When sold for human use as hallucinogens without directions for use or warnings, as required by U.S. Food and Drug Administration, these chemicals are also considered to be "misbranded drugs."

Other chemicals included in the inventory of LTK that were being illicitly sold and used are as

Badrak and LTK Sentenced

follows: absinthe oil, Nalbuphine HCl (an analgesic opiate approved for use by the FDA when lawfully sold as a prescription pain drug, but widely abused by bodybuilders to treat pain), 2,4-Dinitrophenol (DNP), also known as “2,4 D” (widely used by bodybuilders for weight loss), Scopolamine HBR (commonly used as a motion sickness medicine), and Dextromethorphan HBR (DXM) (the active ingredient in several over-the-counter brands of cough medicine).

DXM is a disassociative analgesic, which is similar in effects to Ketamine (known on the street as “Cat” or “Special K”) and Phenylcyclidine (PCP), known on the street as “Angel Dust,” both of which are Schedule I controlled substances. Currently, DXM is being widely abused by teenagers, who will often drink several bottles of cough syrup at a time. There have been several overdoses attributed to DXM, as well as several deaths of individuals under DXM intoxication. These drugs were also sold with no directions for use or adequate warnings against use as required by law, making these drugs misbranded.

Judge Hovland sentenced **Badrak** to 60 months’ imprisonment to be followed by four years of supervised release and to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim’s Fund.

Badrak’s sentence was also based upon a conviction in a separate case for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute cocaine, to which **Badrak** pleaded guilty on July 14, 2005.

LTK, which is no longer operating as a company, was ordered to pay a special assessment of \$200, and to forfeit all chemicals, office equipment, records, computers, and other assets to the United States Food and Drug Administration, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and Ward County Narcotics Task Force.

Sentencing for **Badrak** and **LTK** marks the conclusion of the North Dakota portion of a coordinated nationwide investigation of several companies that sell “designer drugs” and related chemicals over the internet, primarily to teenagers and young adults, under the guise of “research chemicals.”

According to U.S. Attorney Wrigley, the nation-wide investigation targeted a number of internet chemical sellers operating through websites under the guise of being legitimate companies selling chemicals to researchers, in addition to LTK Research Products, including:

WWW.RACRESEARCH.COM; WWW.AMERICANCHEMICALSUPPLY.COM;

WWW.PONDMAN.NU; WWW.DUNCANLABPRODUCTS.COM; and

OMEGAFINECHEMICALS.COM.

“The sale and consumption of dangerous chemicals publicly offered for sale by **LTK** and other internet companies is illegal and a serious health and safety problem for our citizens,” stated Wrigley.

“The coordinated efforts of state and Federal agencies throughout the country closed them down.”

Although **Badrak** and **LTK** were put out of business following the execution of state and federal search warrants in April 2004, other illegal chemical sellers may rise up to take their place. Anyone who is aware of companies selling these dangerous chemicals to the general public rather than to legitimate research labs and companies should contact the Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigation at 1-800-521-5782 or the Drug Enforcement Administration at 1-701-250-4550 in Bismarck, ND.

The North Dakota portion of the nation-wide investigation designated Operation Web-Tryp was

spearheaded by agents of the United States Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigation (FDA-OCI) in Minneapolis, MN, Drug Enforcement Administration in Fargo and Bismarck, ND, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Minot, ND, the United States Postal Inspection Service in St. Paul, MN, and the Ward County Narcotics Task Force (which is comprised of agents from North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Ward County Sheriff's Department and Minot Police Department), with assistance from the U.S. FDA Forensic Chemistry Center, the Ward County State's Attorney's Office and Minnesota National Guard.

Assistant United States Attorney Scott J. Schneider prosecuted the case.

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