

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MAINE

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
BANGOR, MAINE
RECEIVED AND FILED

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

v.)

MWASHUMA M. SITHOLE)

BY _____)
DEPUTY CLERK)
Criminal No. 1:16-cr-00029-JAW)

PROSECUTION VERSION

In December 2013, the defendant acquired several coins from a person he met through a website. He pawned six of the silver coins at a pawn shop in Augusta, Maine for a total of \$800. Several weeks later, the defendant returned to the pawn shop. A clerk at the shop told the defendant that the coins were fake and told him not to return to the store for any more pawns.

The defendant learned that the person who had provided the coins to him had ordered those coins online. The defendant began ordering counterfeit Morgan dollars online in about May 2014. Over the course of the next several months, the defendant placed several orders online for items that looked like genuine Morgan dollar coins. The Morgan dollar is a United States dollar coin minted from 1878 to 1904 and then again in 1921. The obverse of a genuine Morgan dollar shows a profile portrait and the reverse depicts an eagle with its wings outstretched. The coins that the defendant ordered and received were offered online as counterfeits with the country of China as the place of manufacture. The defendant would pay about \$2 each for the coins. The coins resembled genuine Morgan dollars in appearance, design, and weight.

The defendant sold and pawned several counterfeit Morgan dollars in Maine in 2014. He knew that the coins were counterfeit but told the buyers that the coins were genuine Morgan dollars. Some of the sales and pawns were:

1. On about August 1, 2014, the defendant met a man with the initials A.S. in Augusta, Maine. A.S. paid the defendant \$1,140 through a third party for 60 counterfeit Morgan dollar coins.
2. On about August 15, 2014, the defendant met a man with the initials J.S. in Newport, Maine. J.S. paid the defendant \$2,100 through a third party for 100 counterfeit Morgan dollar coins.
3. On about September 17, 2014, the defendant met a man with the initials J.S. in Newport, Maine. J.S. paid the defendant \$2,000 through a third party for 121 counterfeit Morgan dollar coins.
4. On about September 25, 2014, the defendant met a man with the initials R.P. in Farmington, Maine. R.P. paid the defendant \$2,640 for 120 counterfeit Morgan dollar coins.
5. On about November 14, 2014, the defendant pawned 44 counterfeit Morgan dollar coins at The Money Shop in Newport, Maine. The Money Shop paid the defendant \$400 on the pawn.
6. On about November 18, 2014, the defendant pawned 42 counterfeit Morgan dollar coins at the Lewiston Pawn Shop. The Lewiston Pawn Shop paid the defendant \$500 on the pawn.
7. On about November 18, 2014, the defendant pawned 42 counterfeit Morgan dollar coins at Jimi's Trading in South Portland. Jimi's Trading paid the defendant \$400 on the pawn.
8. On about December 23, 2014, the defendant pawned 42 counterfeit Morgan dollar coins at Stone's Trading in Lewiston, Maine. Stone's Trading paid the defendant \$400 on the pawn.

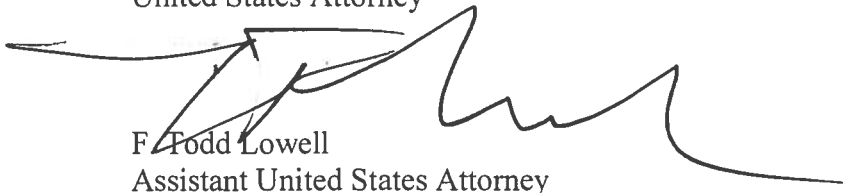
no more than 774 HST MS

Law enforcement officers executed a warrant at the defendant's residence on January 22, 2015. They seized approximately 1200 counterfeit Morgan coins that belonged to the defendant. The defendant had ordered these coins online from a place outside the United States.

DATED in Bangor, Maine this 25th day of February 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Delahanty II
United States Attorney



F. Todd Lowell
Assistant United States Attorney

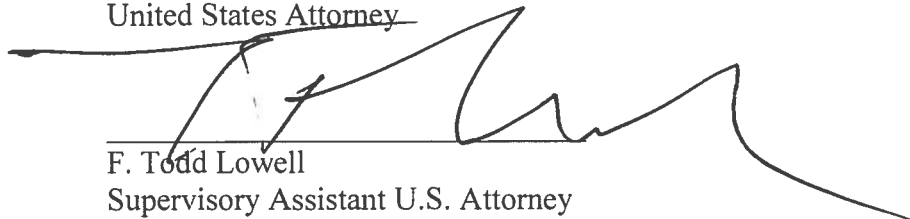
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MAINE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 25, 2016 I mailed by United States Postal Service, the document(s) to the following defense counsel:

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