



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOUGLAS LAUREN DESOTO

On September 21, 2010, Douglas Lauren DeSoto, 51, of Fortuna, pleaded guilty to felony auto theft and three counts of felony receiving stolen property. Mr. DeSoto agreed to a term of 12 years in the Department of Corrections. Mr. DeSoto will have to serve approximately 10 of the 12 years before he will be eligible for parole.

Mr. DeSoto was arrested on August 5, 2010, after a Bank of America employee alerted Arcata police that an individual was attempting to exchange Japanese yen for United States' currency. Banks were previously alerted by the Arcata police, after a visitor to Humboldt County reported that approximately \$90,000 yen were stolen from her campsite. When officers contacted Mr. DeSoto, he was in possession of approximately \$90,000 yen and keys to a recently stolen 2004 Jeep Grand. Inside the Jeep, which was located in the Bank of America parking lot, officers located several items stolen from a home in Fieldbrook.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Ben McLaughlin.