



**Office of the  
Special Narcotics Prosecutor  
for the City of New York**

**Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics  
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**Press Release**

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**NEW YORK CITY SPECIAL NARCOTICS PROSECUTORS OFFICE LEADS NATION  
IN WIRETAP ORDERS**

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan today commended dedicated Assistant District Attorneys from the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York, and dozens of law enforcement agents who worked closely with them in obtaining 148 wiretap orders, more than any other prosecutor's office in the nation last year.

"Wiretapping is critical to bringing down the heads of international narcotics rings that reap immense profit and cause untold misery by trafficking in cocaine, heroin and other illegal substances," Ms Brennan said. Ms Brennan added that narcotic kingpins often remain far away from illicit substances, but arrange for the transport of hundreds of pounds of cocaine and heroin and transfer of millions of dollars in profit through cellular telephone, email and fax communications. Through wiretapping, Ms Brennan said, her agency is able to obtain evidence to prosecute kingpins and major traffickers.

A series of 5 wiretaps in 2005 leading to the indictment of 22 persons early this year in the Panama Express investigation, run by the Office of Special Narcotics, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the New York City Police Department, demonstrated the effectiveness of wiretaps in prosecuting high level traffickers. In the Panama Express investigation, agents in the United States were able to track the source of heroin being ferried into the United States by couriers who swallowed heroin pellets. New York City distribution rings obtained the pellets, diluted it, broke the heroin down into small quantities and sold it throughout New York.

The international investigation identified the head of the New York end of the operation, who recruited swallowers, arranged for the trips under the guidance of the Panamanian bosses, made arrangements to retrieve the heroin from the swallowers and supplied heroin to local dealers. For nine months, surveillance and wiretap operations traced the comings and goings of swallowers, as they traveled routinely from Latin America to the United States transporting pellets full of heroin. But more importantly, wiretaps allowed American agents to work closely with Panamanian agents and apprehend the kingpins at the top of the international chain.

Of the 148 wiretaps obtained by the Office of Special Narcotics last year, 129 were for cellular phones, 7 were for pagers, 5 were for emails; 4 were for video and audio surveillance inside a location, and 3 were for landlines.