



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LOCAL POTTERY COMPANY ADMITS TO CUSTOMS VIOLATIONS**

(Texarkana, TX) A pottery company headquartered in Marshall has agreed to pay fines and restitution for violating federal Customs laws that prohibit destroying or altering "country of origin" markings.

**CASEY POTTERY COMPANY** was represented in federal court this week by its President, Stephen Carlisle, of Marshall. Carlisle appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Caroline Craven and agreed to pay a criminal fine of \$68,000 for the misdemeanor offense of altering the name of the country of origin on imported pottery items shipped or resold in the United States. Casey Pottery Company was also placed on one year's probation. The Company also agreed in a civil settlement to pay penalties of \$134,596.73 and to remark approximately 224,000 pieces of pottery.

According to information presented in court, from about March, 2000, to March, 2002, Casey Pottery Company received imported pottery goods at its facility in Marshall, Texas. After unloading the goods, decorative decals were often added to the foreign-marked pottery by heating the items in a kiln. The

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Casey Pottery Company

process also destroyed the country of origin markings. Once the items had cooled, employees of Casey Pottery Company would remark the items as "Hand Made in the U.S.A." or simply "Hand Made." The illegally marked items were then repackaged and shipped to a distribution center to fill orders placed by Home & Garden Party distributors.

**Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas praised the work of the investigative agencies on this case, "This type of fraud is very elaborate and difficult to investigate. The Company intentionally concealed the true country of origin of the items, and consumers were misled."**

This investigation was led by Senior Special Agent Allan Frederickson of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Traci Kenner and Ruth Yeager.

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