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## **PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **COVID PROTOCOL JURY TRIAL CONVICTION**

**April 9, 2021**

**Plattsburgh, N.Y.**

Clinton County District Attorney Andrew J. Wylie announced today that Clinton County Court trial jury returned a guilty verdict against defendant Eric Alvarez on Tuesday March 30, 2021. The defendant was charged by indictment with two counts Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree (intent to sell cocaine and intent to sell fentanyl) and one count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree (possession of one-half ounce or more of fentanyl).



The trial was presided over by Clinton County Court Judge Keith Bruno and was conducted under Covid protocols with all jurors, court attendants, attorneys and the defendant wearing masks and being separated by six feet over three days.

District Attorney Wylie stated that although the jury selection process and the courtroom setting was different than under normal times, the process went very smoothly, all parties were practicing proper social distancing and mask wearing. The attorneys were restricted with their ability to move around the Courtroom and it was somewhat difficult to conduct opening and closing statements as well as question witnesses while wearing a mask but we all got through the process.

Eric Alvarez was charged with being in possession of crack cocaine and over one half ounce of fentanyl, with the intent to sell each narcotic drug. The defendant was arrested on July 29, 2020 in the City of Plattsburgh after a investigation conducted by the Plattsburgh City Police

Department's Narcotic Division and the execution of a search warrant at the residence of Billy and Jessica Hendrie in the City of Plattsburgh.

The defendant faces up to twelve years in prison and \$90,000.00 in fines and surcharges when the defendant is scheduled for sentencing on June 3, 2021.

Clinton County District Attorney Andrew Wylie prosecuted the defendant.

The defendant was represented by David Gervais, Esq.