

Manhattan District Attorney's Office

Cybercrime and Identity Theft Bureau

“CITB”

Elizabeth Roper, Bureau Chief

Hotline: (212)335-9600

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CITB

- Cybercrime or identity theft related charges make up over 25% of all felony complaints in Manhattan
- Cybercrime and Identity Theft Bureau (“CITB”) created in 2010
- CITB provides support and training: areas include electronic evidence, ECPA, blockchain
- Digital Forensic Lab conducts digital forensic and real-time response work throughout the office
 - Including identification of wallets and seizure of cryptocurrency with legal progress

CITB - Blockchain Investigations

TOOLS

- Dedicated blockchain/cryptocurrency analysts
- In-house investigators
- Hotline (2022: ~75 total calls, ~45 related to NFTs)
- WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram
- Digital forensics lab
- Third-party software

CHALLENGES

- Cold storage wallets
- Overseas entities, jurisdiction
- Rapidly-evolving tech
- Talent retention/training

Blockchain Investigations: Case types

- Theft of cryptocurrency
 - Traditional theft by force
 - Account takeovers/phishing
 - Romance/tech support schemes, “pig butchering” etc.

- Money Laundering activity
 - Darknet marketplaces
 - Gift card brokering



New York Man Pleads Guilty to \$1.8 Million Ether Robbery

Louis Meza admitted to kidnapping and stealing \$1.8 million in ether as part of a plea deal. He may be sentenced to 10 years in prison as a result.

By Nikhilesh De · ① Sep 6, 2018 at 3:45 p.m. EDT · Updated Sep 13, 2021 at 4:21 a.m. EDT



NEWS • PRESS RELEASES

D.A. Bragg: Dark Web Drug Seller “sinmed” Pleads Guilty to Operating as a Major Trafficker

MARCH 9, 2022

Defendant Manufactured and Shipped Hundreds of Thousands of Counterfeit Xanax Nationwide, Laundered \$2.3M Using Bitcoin

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin L. Bragg, Jr., today announced the plea of CHESTER ANDERSON, 47, for operating storefronts on the dark web that sold and shipped hundreds of thousands of counterfeit Xanax tablets and other controlled substances to buyers in 43 states, and laundering \$2.3 million in cryptocurrency by using preloaded debit cards and withdrawing cash at ATMs in Manhattan and New Jersey. ANDERSON pleaded guilty in New York State Supreme Court to Operating as a Major Trafficker, Money Laundering in the First Degree, and Conspiracy in the Fourth and Fifth Degrees, and is expected to be sentenced on June 22, 2022.

NFT Fraud – a surge in complaints

Theft of NFTs occurring via:

- Phishing/theft of seed phrases
- Account/wallet takeovers
- Malicious smart contracts – *check token approvals*

Other types of fraud:

- Investment schemes
- Rug pulls

