

Holiday Season Shoplifting a Billion Dollar Drain on Businesses

By Nick WillThe season of giving coincides with the season of taking for many U.S. retailers; stores are expecting to lose \$8.5 billion collectively from shoplifting and employee theft this holiday season, researchers say. The Centre for Retail Research in Thorofare, N.J. released a study in early December highlighting possible losses that stores may see. At least \$3.8 billion of the projected losses are going to come from shoplifting, \$4.7 billion from employee theft and \$400 million from vendor and distribution losses. "The Christmas season is an especially attractive time for criminals," said Professor Joshua Bamfield, director of the Centre for Retail Research and the creator of the report. "Thieves take advantage of busy stores to steal high-value, high-demand goods. As a result, retailers face a big threat from professional and semi-professional thieves." The most prevalent items taken are alcohol, women's clothing, electronics, toys, DVDs and jewelry. The City of Oneida has seen an increase in petty larceny arrests over the last two years. In 2011, there were 10 petty larceny arrests in November and December. This year there have been 16 arrests to date, with the biggest shopping weekend still ahead. Oneida City Police Chief David Meeker said that although the number of larceny-related arrests are not significantly higher during the holiday season, people are more prone to taking larger items to try and re-sell them. "We see an increase in shoplifting every holiday season at the store," said Oneida Walmart Store Manager Jim Breed. Breed said that cosmetics, electronics and entertainment items tend to be stolen the most. Walmart and other area retailers like Lowes work hand-in-hand with the local police to identify and forewarn of potential shoplifters. Both Breed and Meeker said they have not seen a significant increase in shoplifting in the area. "While the holiday season is best known as a time of giving, there is a fair amount of taking that goes on as well," said Criminal Defense Attorney Donald E. Kelly of Tully Rinckey PLLC. "Now that many sought-after and pricey gifts are getting smaller and lighter, people caught stealing them need to know they could end up facing felony charges." The following is a list of common holiday season property crimes:

- Fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, a class A misdemeanor: Possessing stolen property valued below \$1,000.
- Fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, a class E felony: Possessing stolen property valued at or over \$1,000 or possessing a stolen credit card, debit card, or benefits card.
- Fourth-degree grand larceny, a class E felony: Stealing property valued at or over \$1,000.
- Jostling, a class A misdemeanor: Engaging in or enabling pick pocketing or engaging in or enabling stealing from a handbag.
- Petty larceny, a class A misdemeanor: Stealing property valued below \$1,000.
- Third-degree robbery, a class D felony: Forcibly stealing property.

“He took on this case with vigor and ZERO FEAR of the government!”

"LITERALLY THE BEST MONEY I EVER SPENT!!!! The USAF charged my son with Article 92, Violate General Order and Article 128, Simple Assault. I spoke to many attorneys who said to me, "Your son will be convicted of the Simple Assault because putting lotion on someone's face is considered an assault as it is an unwanted touch." They all wanted me to work on a plea deal with the government that ended with my son being discharged, spending time in the brig and having a

federal conviction for the rest of his life. Knowing that this just didn't warrant a federal conviction, bad conduct discharge and time in the brig, I was on a search to find an attorney who would look at this case for what it was: a couple of 19-21 year-old immature young men horse playing. I was looking for someone who would say something different; someone who would be able to look at the case from more than one view. When I spoke to Mr. Rinckey, I thought I was going to get the same ole speech, but to my surprise, I IMMEDIATELY felt at ease and I knew right then that he was going to be my attorney (not sure if he knew it at this time). He took on this case with vigor and ZERO FEAR of the government! He wanted them to know that this was NOT going to go away with any plea deal! And he went to work! Then, LITERALLY 2 DAYS BEFORE trail the government added an additional charge, which was Article 134, Unlawful Entry. Mr. Rinckey stayed focused, developed a plan, and off to trail we went. He was so prepared, calm and at ease. I remember him saying to me, "I am ready to try this case." And yesterday – 14 APR 2016 – my son was found NOT GUILTY on ALL CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS!!! Yesss!!! You know, it's always hard to find money for an attorney, but I learned one thing with this case. Although I thought we couldn't afford an attorney, the truth of the matter was that we couldn't afford NOT TO HAVE an attorney. I only wish I had found Mr. Rinckey sooner, but that's okay. I have found my ATTORNEY for life," Y.W. on Founding Partner on Greg Rinckey, Esq.

Prior results do not guarantee similar outcomes.

"Well Informed Legal Advice" – G.C.

Received sound and well informed legal advice. Responses were timely and extremely relevant. – G.C. on client relations attorney Derrick T. Hogan

“Great Service” – E.S.

I want to thank you all for the great service rendered [to] myself and family. - E.S. on Client Relations Attorney Derrick Hogan

"High Regard" – R.E.M.

"Your firm held my best interests with high regard... I thank you for your efforts." - R.E.M.

“Prompt and Efficient” – K.B.

"Prompt and efficient in processing claim, all correspondence handled in prompt and efficient manner." – K.B.

“Impressed” – W.W.

"As a retired heavy user of attorneys, I'm impressed with your concerns and your efforts to stay in touch with your clients. Its damned good management aligned with top notch expertise." – W.W.

"Excellent Service" – J.R.

"Excellent service, very professional, and understanding and considerate of clients needs. Attorney

was very approachable and there was a very good comfort level." – J.R.

"Full Service" – K.M.

"I like the fact the office is close enough to where I work and live and that it is a full service practice, not just estate planning." – K.M.

"Professional and Informative" – J.H.

"Professional and informative... I was pleased with the handling of the case. I was treated as a person, and kept abreast of all aspects of the case. Thank you all." – J.H.

"Thanks So Much" – J.D.

"Without your firm, I would not have known of my claim. Thanks so much!" – J.D.

"Gets Results" – F.P.

"Most certainly – The firm gets results!" – F.P.

"Outstanding" – M.P.

"Results are outstanding." – M.P.

"Quite Satisfied" – R.W.

"I am quite satisfied with the services your office has provided." – R.W.

"Exceptional Legal Services" – A.S.

"Your firm, Tully Rinckey, has provided and continues to provide me with prompt, keen, exceptional legal services. After the initial consult, I felt relieved that I had the representation from Tully Rinckey... I have found a new found hope with Tully Rinckey..." – A.S.

“Absolute Best” – R.H.

“My attorney was the absolute best I could ever have hoped for. A pure professional in every sense of the word. She was very mindful of my financial expenditure and still was able to represent me very well in my court case.” – R.H.

“Outstanding Service” – A.R.

“Outstanding service, true professional.” – A.R.

“Top Notch” – V.W.

“My attorney was top notch. Very pleasant and helpful.” – V.W.

“Very Thankful” – C.P.

“Very thankful for the help and guidance I received from your law firm. Because of your law firm I was able to return to work with all my back benefits.” – C.P.

“Ideal Choice” – D.H.

“My attorney knew exactly the approach to take and was the ideal choice. She was extremely responsive. She was clear, balanced, and open to our views and feelings. She made it clear she was there for us and ready to answer questions.” – D.H.

“Very Satisfied” – D.D.

“I was very satisfied with the services provided which were completed in a very timely and professional manner.” – D.D.

“Excellent” – B.M.

“Your firm provides excellent & free service to federal workers and NG/USAR members.” – B.M.