



U.S. Department of Justice

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Aug 18, 2009

Event: Sentenced

Defendant: Chilakamarri Ramesh

**WEST BLOOMFIELD PSYCHIATRIST SENTENCED TO PRISON
IN CITIZENSHIP FRAUD CONSPIRACY**

A West Bloomfield psychiatrist was sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment for conspiring to commit naturalization fraud, United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced. Berg was joined in the announcement by Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Michigan and Ohio.

Chilakamarri Ramesh, M.D., 55, of West Bloomfield pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Julian Abele Cook, Jr. on May 18, 2009. Between 1998 and 2002, Ramesh worked at a Dearborn immigration clinic known as "Four A's Hope Psycho-Social & Immigration Services," located at 10334 West Warren, where he performed psychiatric evaluations on naturalization applicants seeking United States citizenship. Immigrants seen by Ramesh were falsely diagnosed with mental retardation, post-traumatic stress disorder, learning disabilities, and/or dementia. These diagnoses were then submitted to INS on

documents called "N-648 waivers," which allow a naturalization applicant to gain United States citizenship without passing the English-proficiency and civics portion of the naturalization exam. Ramesh also conducted psychiatric evaluations and signed N-648 waivers for immigrants in other cities, traveling to Cleveland, St. Louis, and Chicago. In total, Ramesh signed 953 waivers on behalf of 492 applicants.

U.S. Attorney Terrence Berg said, "We must be vigilant to prevent fraud in connection with citizenship applications. Those who seek the privilege of becoming U.S. citizens must do so honestly and without any misrepresentations."

"American citizenship is a privilege, not a right," said Moskowitz. "Obtaining citizenship through fraud is an affront to every person who has played by the rules. Today's sentence sends the clear message that ICE will continue to work with our partners in the U.S. Attorney's Office to ensure that those who use criminal and dishonorable means to achieve the most honorable of goals are brought to justice."

Ramesh has been an assistant professor of psychiatry at Wayne State University since 1990 and chairman of the department of psychiatry at St. John's Hospital from 1995 to 2000. He is board-certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in Adult Psychiatry.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Leonid Feller and Jonathan Tukel.