



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of Mississippi

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 3, 2011**

**THREE LOCAL BUSINESSMEN PLEAD GUILTY TO  
EMPLOYMENT-RELATED IMMIGRATION CONSPIRACY**

Gulfport, Miss - Randall J. "Randy" Weitzel, 50, of Gulfport, Edwood "Woody" Brodtmann, Jr., 61, of Bay St. Louis, and Agustin Arcadia, 44, of Van Cleave, pled guilty in federal court today to charges relating to the employment of illegal aliens at federal and private projects on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and elsewhere, U.S. Attorney John M. Dowdy, Jr., Special Agent-in-Charge Raymond R. Parmer, Jr. of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Department of Homeland Security Investigations (ICE HSI), and Special Agent-in-Charge Richard Walker of the Atlanta Region for the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, announced today. All three defendants entered their guilty pleas before Chief U.S. District Judge Louis Guirola, Jr.

Defendants Weitzel and Arcadia pled guilty to a conspiracy spanning eight years during which they encouraged and induced illegal aliens to reside in the United States; concealed, harbored, and shielded illegal aliens from detection; and helped transport illegal aliens. Defendant Brodtmann pled guilty to a related conspiracy involving a pattern or practice of continuing to employ illegal aliens.

The charges against all three men stem from the discovery of nearly a dozen illegal aliens living at a house that Weitzel rented for them in Biloxi, Mississippi. Several of the illegal aliens were working on a federal contract at the Keesler Air Force Base as part of a company that Weitzel ran. Illegal alien laborers associated with Weitzel also worked on other federal contracts, including the Dan M. Russell, Jr., United States Courthouse and Annex in Gulfport, Mississippi, where the guilty pleas were entered.

As part of his obligation as a federal project subcontractor, Weitzel signed certified payrolls listing employees who were in fact illegal aliens, including one whom Weitzel knew was working under an assumed name. In certifying the payrolls, Weitzel also represented that he was withholding federal and state taxes from his employees' paychecks, when in fact he was not. Weitzel's business has been known by various names, including Procoat, Inc., Procoat of LA, Inc., ATI of LA, Inc., Artisan Textures, Inc., and Artisan Construction, Inc.

Following the arrest of illegal alien laborers employed by Weitzel at Keesler Air Force

Base, Weitzel stopped providing transportation and housing for his workers. A truck that had been provided to one of the Keesler arrestees was hidden at a farm owned by Brodtmann, who was employed by one of Weitzel's companies.

Weitzel began using laborers who did not work directly for his company but for sham subcontract businesses that he helped create, including J.A. Construction, which was run by Arcadia. Arcadia continued to act as a supervisor for Weitzel and helped run another subcontract business, AQ Stucco, which also worked for Weitzel and employed a substantial share of illegal alien laborers.

"ICE aggressively targets egregious employers who knowingly and recklessly employ an illegal alien workforce," said Raymond R. Parmer, Jr., Special Agent-in-Charge of ICE HSI in New Orleans. "We will continue to use all our investigative tools to pursue employers who take advantage of illegal labor to make an unlawful profit." Since it was established in 2003, ICE has dramatically enhanced its efforts to combat the unlawful employment of illegal aliens in this country. ICE's comprehensive strategy for worksite enforcement is aimed at promoting national security and public safety, protecting critical infrastructure, and ensuring fair labor standards. Parmer oversees responsibility for the states of Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Tennessee and Louisiana."

"Individuals and businesses who hire illegal aliens are doing nothing but hurting honest, hard working Americans. Plain and simple, the message should be clear by now, we are going to continue aggressively investigating and prosecuting individuals and businesses who hire illegal aliens," said U.S. Attorney Dowdy.

Dowdy praised the efforts of U.S. Department Homeland Security Investigations and the U.S. Department of Labor Office of the Inspector General for their diligent work in the investigation of this matter. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gaines Cleveland and Mike Hurst are the prosecutors in charge of the case.

Weitzel, Arcadia, and Brodtmann will be sentenced on September 1, 2011. Weitzel and Arcadia face a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a maximum fine of \$250,000, and three years of supervised release. Defendant Brodtmann faces a maximum penalty of six months in prison, a maximum fine of \$5,000.

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