

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bridgeton Man Admits Producing False Identification Documents

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Bridgeton man pleaded guilty today to producing false Social Security and U.S. Alien Registration cards, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Juan Valasco-Jimenez, 31, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez to a one-count Information that charges him with producing false identification documents. Judge Rodriguez detained the defendant without bail pending sentencing, which is scheduled Feb. 22.

At his plea hearing, Valasco-Jimenez admitted that from at least as early as March 19, 2009, through June 23, 2009, he and Amanda Lopez made and sold false Social Security and U.S. Alien Registration cards. Valasco-Jimenez admitted he produced the fake identification cards at his residence and sold the cards for between \$150 to \$180 each.

In one instance, Valasco-Jimenez admitted that on May 13, 2009, two males came to his home and asked him to make a number of false documents. In response, Valasco-Jimenez made five “sets” of documents (matching alien registration and Social Security cards) and eight additional Social Security cards in exchange for approximately \$1,000, he admitted.

Lopez, 35, who resides with Valasco-Jimenez, pleaded guilty before Judge Rodriguez on Oct. 1, 2009, to one-count of producing false identification documents. Lopez is also scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 22.

The charge of producing false identification documents carries a maximum statutory penalty of 15 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Rodriguez will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Fishman credited Special Agent with the Immigration and Custom Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter T. Edge, and Investigators with the Cumberland County Prosecutor’s Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Ronald J. Casella, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Smith of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Peter A. Levin, Esq. Philadelphia