

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 20, 2007

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Irvington Lawyer Pleads Guilty to Immigration Fraud;  
Assisted Hundreds of Illegal Aliens to Live in New Jersey

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(More)

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Public Affairs Office  
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NEWARK – An Irvington lawyer pleaded guilty last evening to immigration fraud charges, U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie announced.

Jonathan Saint Preux, 44, an attorney specializing in immigration law at the law offices of Jonathan Saint Preux in Irvington, entered his plea before Judge Katharine S. Hayden, who scheduled sentencing for October 18, 2007. Jonathan Saint Preux was released on a \$250,000 bond secured by real estate.

During the plea hearing, Saint Preux admitted that from September 2004 through February 2006, along with his wife Michele Saint Preux, Naranjan Patel and Bharat Kotak, he fraudulently assisted hundreds of illegal aliens to live in New Jersey and elsewhere in the United States.

With the help of his wife, who was an office manager at his law office, and Patel and Kotak, who referred illegal alien clients to his law firm, Saint Preux falsely represented to the government that the aliens had lived unlawfully in the United States before 1982 so that such aliens could qualify for legal residency under an amnesty immigrant program sponsored by the federal government. Jonathan Saint Preux admitted that his law office made hundreds of thousands of dollars through the illegal scheme.

Michele Saint Preux, 40, pleaded guilty to the immigration fraud scheme before Judge Hayden on April 11, 2007, and was released on a \$150,000 bond secured by real estate. Kotak, 56, pleaded guilty to the scheme before Judge Hayden on March 5, 2007 and was released on an unsecured \$50,000 bond. Their sentencing dates have not been set yet. Patel, 47, is currently scheduled to go to trial on June 4, 2007 before Judge Hayden.

The charge of immigration fraud carries a statutory maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

“The convictions in this case illustrate that Special Agents of ICE, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and our other law enforcement partners take very seriously the threat posed to our national security by document fraud and violations of immigration laws,” said Kyle Hutchins, Special Agent in Charge of ICE in Newark. “Criminal prosecutions such as this one also send the message that attorneys in particular have a greater responsibility to uphold immigration law and policies.”

In determining the actual sentences, Judge Hayden 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.

Jonathan and Michele Saint Preux Preux live in South Orange; Kotak resides in Iselin, Patel resides in South Plainfield.

Christie credited Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins in Newark, and Immigration officers with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, under the direction District Director Andrea Quarantillo in Newark.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Adam S. Lurie and Michael F. Buchanan.

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Defense Counsel:

Jonathan Saint Preux: Miguel Garcia, Esq.

Michele Saint Preux: Frank Arleo, Esq.

Kotak: Jay Fahy, Esq.

Patel: Henry Klingeman, Esq.