



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates
Northern District of Georgia

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IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY INDICTED FOR FRAUDULENT FILINGS WITH GOVERNMENT

Dixit Charged With Filing False Visa Applications and with Alien Harboring

ATLANTA, GA - PARMESH N. DIXIT, 40, of Alpharetta, Georgia, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of visa fraud, alien harboring, and conspiracy. DIXIT made his initial appearance and was arraigned late today before Magistrate Judge Russell G. Vineyard. DIXIT was released on \$50,000 secured bond and ordered to surrender his United States and United Kingdom passports.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "This immigration attorney allegedly used his knowledge of the United States' visa programs to fraudulently manipulate the system for dozens of clients. He is now charged with deliberately lying about his clients' qualifications to make them look qualified for a U.S. work visa, when he knew they were not. Lies on federal visa applications violate federal laws. Those who help others fill out visa applications with false information--lawyers or not--face prosecution."

"Committing immigration fraud is a serious matter, and it is particularly disturbing when it is committed by an immigration attorney," said Brock Nicholson, acting special agent in charge of ICE Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) in Atlanta. "This man knows the law and he will now have to answer to charges that he manipulated it for his own personal profit."

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: From July 2005 through July 2008, DIXIT, an immigration attorney, conspired with others to obtain visas for his clients by submitting fraudulent applications to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. DIXIT filed applications for citizenship containing false information, thus altering the facts so that aliens who were not eligible for work visas would appear eligible.

There are lawful visa programs through which certain qualified and high-level managers in overseas companies can come to the United States to work. DIXIT told clients he could obtain “green cards” or resident alien status for them through these lawful visa programs. Because DIXIT's clients did not in fact qualify for these programs, DIXIT submitted fraudulent information on his clients' applications in order to make it appear that the clients did qualify. The fraudulent information included the applicant's prior employment, biographic data, and the jobs purportedly available for the alien in the United States. DIXIT charged his clients higher than normal fees as he claimed he could obtain visas for the illegal alien clients.

The indictment charges 28 counts of visa fraud, 42 counts of alien harboring for the purpose of private financial gain, and one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud. Each charge of visa fraud carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Each charge of alien harboring carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. The conspiracy count carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE-HSI) and the United States Department of Labor.

Assistant United States Attorneys Susan Coppedge and William L. McKinnon, Jr. are prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.justice.gov/usao/gan.