



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory K. Davis
Southern District of Mississippi

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CONTACT: SHEILA WILBANKS
PHONE: (601) 965-4480
FAX: (601) 965-4409

FLORIDA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT VISA FRAUD

Gulfport, Miss. -- Michael Lombardi, 41, a resident of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, pled guilty in U. S. District Court on May 16, 2012, to conspiracy to commit visa fraud, announced U.S. Attorney Gregory K. Davis and Raymond R. Parmer, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

Lombardi was the owner of U.S. Opportunities, a business that provides temporary foreign workers to U.S. companies. He admitted that from January, 2009 through April, 2010, he fraudulently obtained temporary work visas under the H-2B visa program for foreign workers from the Philippines and placed them with U.S. companies not authorized to employ them. Some of those foreign workers were employed by companies in Mississippi. Lombardi was arrested on September 30, 2011 for conspiring to commit visa fraud, fraud in foreign labor contracting and false statements.

"Visa fraud takes jobs away from U.S. citizens and others who are legally allowed to work in this country. Through cases like this one, HSI is helping to protect our economy and preserve job opportunities from being lost due to fraud," said Raymond R. Parmer, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of ICE HSI in New Orleans. Parmer oversees a five-state area which includes Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee.

Lombardi will be sentenced on August 6, 2012 and faces a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

This case was investigated by ICE HSI and the Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Annette Williams.