

# 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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***Go to:*** <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Oct. 18, 2007

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Irvington Lawyer Sentenced to 57 Months in Prison  
For Immigration Fraud; Wife also Sentenced

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(More)

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NEWARK – An Irvington lawyer was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison today on immigration fraud charges, U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Katharine S. Hayden immediately revoked bail for Jonathan Saint Preux and ordered him detained pending transfer to a federal prison.

Judge Hayden sentenced Saint Preux's wife, Michele Saint Preux, 41, the firm's office manager, to five years of probation for her role in the immigration fraud conspiracy. In considering her sentence, Judge Hayden found that Michele Saint Preux had substantially assisted authorities in the investigation.

Jonathan Saint Preux, 45, an attorney specializing in immigration law, had faced a probable sentencing range under the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines of between 37 and 46 months in prison. However, Judge Hayden took away Saint Preux's credit for acceptance of responsibility, finding that Saint Preux had not ultimately acknowledged and accepted his wrongdoing. Consequently, using her discretion, Judge Hayden sentenced Jonathan Saint Preux within a higher guideline range.

On Oct. 2, Niranjana Patel, 47, who recruited clients for the law firm, was sentenced to 37 months in prison for his role in the immigration fraud conspiracy. A jury convicted Patel in June.

During Jonathan Saint Preux's plea hearing, he admitted that from September 2004 through February 2006, he, his wife and Patel fraudulently assisted hundreds of illegal aliens to live in New Jersey and elsewhere in the United States.

With the help of his wife and Patel, 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 immigrant amnesty program sponsored by the federal government. Jonathan Saint Preux admitted that his law office made hundreds of thousands of dollars through the illegal scheme.

Christie credited Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins.

The cases were prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Adam S. Lurie and Michael F. Buchanan in Newark.

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Defense Lawyers:

Jonathan Saint Preux: Miguel Garcia, Esq.  
Michele Saint Preux: Frank Arleo, Esq.  
Niranjan Patel: Henry Klingema, Esq.