



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**QUEENS WOMAN FOUND GUILTY IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT
OF DEFRAUDING IMMIGRANTS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that CLOVER A. PEREZ was found guilty today by a jury in Manhattan federal court for defrauding clients of thousands of dollars in connection with the filing of fraudulent applications for immigration benefits. PEREZ was also convicted of using a client's name to open a fraudulent credit card account that she then used for her own expenses. She was convicted after a one-week jury trial before U.S. District Judge MARVIN E. ASPEN.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "Clover Perez scammed innocent victims, taking advantage of their trust and stealing their hard-earned savings. But that alone was not enough to satisfy her greed. As the jury found, Perez even stole one of her victim's identities so she could underwrite her extravagant buying sprees. With today's verdict, Perez will now be held accountable for her crimes."

According to the trial evidence and other documents filed in the case:

From April 2005 through November 2008, PEREZ, who operated Reliable Clerical Services, Inc., d/b/a Reliable Immigration Services, in Queens, swindled immigrants out of thousands of dollars by claiming that she could get them green cards and other immigration benefits, when she knew she could not. Among other things, she charged phony fees that were not actually required by immigration authorities, and continued to take money from clients long after their applications had been rejected. She submitted many applications under the L.U.L.A.C. program, a limited immigration amnesty and legalization program that allowed certain illegal immigrants - who, among other things, must have resided in the United States before January 1, 1982 - to apply for legal residence. Despite knowing that her clients had entered the U.S. too late to be eligible for the L.U.L.A.C. amnesty program, she nevertheless told clients she

could get them green cards, prepared applications that contained false statements about their dates of entry, and submitted those applications to the United States Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS"). She charged her clients thousands of dollars per application and made more than \$400,000 in illicit proceeds from her scheme.

In addition, in 2006, PEREZ used a client's personal identifying information to obtain a fraudulent credit card account in that client's name. She then used that account to make multiple purchases of luxury items, including plane tickets for herself and members of her family.

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PEREZ, 45, of Elmont, New York, is scheduled to be sentenced on October 7, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. She faces a mandatory minimum term of 2 years in prison, and a maximum term of 67 years in prison.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative efforts of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office and the New York City Field Office of the USCIS Office of Fraud Detection & National Security.

This case was prosecuted by the Office's General Crimes Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys NIKETH VELAMOOR and JAMES J. PASTORE, JR., are in charge of the prosecution.

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