



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**FORMER IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTING  
OFFICER SENTENCED IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT  
TO SIX MONTHS IN PRISON FOR AWARDING GOVERNMENT  
CONTRACTS TO COMPANIES HE OWNED**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that DAVID BALGOBIN was sentenced last Friday in Manhattan federal court to six months in prison for awarding three Department of Homeland Security contracts to companies he controlled. BALGOBIN pleaded guilty on June 17, 2010, to an Information charging him with one count of procuring contracts in which he had an undisclosed financial interest. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Judge ALVIN K. HELLERSTEIN.

According to documents previously filed in Manhattan federal court and statements made during the case:

Since December 2001, BALGOBIN was employed by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"). In 2006, he was promoted to Mission Support Specialist in the Detention and Removal Office in New York, New York (the "ICE-DRO Field Office"), which is responsible for housing ICE detainees in deportation proceedings. In that capacity, BALGOBIN authorized the ICE-DRO Field Office to enter into contracts for certain goods and services.

As a result of an investigation prompted by the concerns of the Office of Acquisition Management, the DHS Office of Inspector General ("DHS-OIG") determined that BALGOBIN was an authorized signatory on the checking accounts of three companies that had contracts with the ICE-DRO Field Office. These companies were: Countrywide Office Solutions ("Countrywide"), which provided courier services; Aroma Scientific Corporation ("Aroma Scientific"), which provided janitorial services; and "Aromed Corporation ("Aromed"), which provided clothing for ICE detainees.

DHS-OIG agents subsequently interviewed BALGOBIN, who acknowledged that he was the sole contracting officer at the ICE-DRO Field Office, and stated that his wife ran the daily operations of Countrywide Office Solutions, Aroma Scientific Corporation, and Aromed Corporation. BALGOBIN admitted that all three companies provide goods and services to the ICE-DRO Field Office, which is the companies' sole client. He stated, in sum and substance, that he had a conflict of interest because he was not supposed to have a "government-business relationship" with family members. BALGOBIN also admitted that he never disclosed a conflict of interest with Countrywide, Aroma Scientific Corporation, and Aromed Corporation, during the course of his employment with ICE or INS.

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In addition to the prison sentence, BALGOBIN was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and complete two years of supervised release. He was also ordered to comply with an agreement to forfeit \$125,000, and a piece of property in the Poconos.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney MICHAEL D. LOCKARD is in charge of the prosecution.

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