



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 14, 2009**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER,
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL,
JANICE OH
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**ICE
MICHAEL W. GILHOOLY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(802) 872-6075**

BRONX ATTORNEY ARRESTED FOR IMMIGRATION FRAUD

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and PETER J. SMITH, Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), announced today the arrest of attorney SALVADOR COLLAZO on charges related to his alleged involvement in a conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to collect excessive fees in connection with immigration applications. COLLAZO was arrested this morning at his home in Bronx, New York by ICE agents.

According to the Superseding Indictment in which COLLAZO is charged, from approximately 2000 through 2008, COLLAZO conspired with DALIA PRELDAKAJ to charge aliens thousands of dollars to prepare Citizen and Immigration Services ("CIS") amnesty and employment authorization applications that contained false information, and to charge aliens fees relating to naturalization, citizenship and registry beyond the fees authorized by law.

COLLAZO was presented and arraigned this afternoon before United States Magistrate Judge JAMES C. FRANCIS IV and was released on bail. PRELDAKAJ, 51, a paralegal from Bronx, New York, was initially charged in this matter in August 2008. Their case is assigned to United States District Judge SHIRA A. SCHENDLIN.

COLLAZO, 61, of Bronx, New York, is charged with one count each of: conspiracy to commit visa fraud and charge excess fees in connection with immigration applications, visa fraud, collecting excess fees in connection with immigration applications, and making false statements in an immigration

application. The conspiracy, collecting excess fees, and false statements charges each carry a maximum potential penalty of 5 years in prison and a fine of the greatest of \$250,000 or twice the gross pecuniary gain or loss from the offense; the visa fraud charge carries a maximum potential penalty of 10 years in prison and fine of the greatest of \$250,000 or twice the gross pecuniary gain or loss from the offense.

Mr. DASSIN praised the work of ICE and the Department of Homeland Security's New York Citizenship and Immigration Services Fraud Detection Unit in the investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys CHRISTIAN R. EVERDELL and DANYA PERRY are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges and allegations contained in the Superseding Indictment against COLLAZO and PRELDAKAJ are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

09-216

###