



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**FORMER FEDERAL IMMIGRATION SUPERVISOR**  
**SENTENCED TO 6 MONTHS' HOME CONFINEMENT FOR**  
**FRAUDULENTLY APPROVING ALIEN'S GREEN CARD**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that LORETTA WILHITE, a Supervisory District Adjudications Officer formerly employed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("CIS") -- previously known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service ("INS") -- was sentenced today to 6 months' home confinement for her participation in a fraudulent scheme to enable an alien to obtain lawful permanent residency status, known as a "green card." The sentence was imposed in Manhattan federal court by the Honorable Judge GEORGE B. DANIELS. According to the Complaint, the Indictment and WILHITE's guilty plea on September 14, 2006:

WILHITE supervised several District Adjudications Officers ("DAOs") at CIS in New York City ("CIS/New York"). In July of 2004, WILHITE requisitioned the file of an alien whose application for a green card had been denied by the CIS office in Kentucky ("CIS/Kentucky"). Following WILHITE's obtaining of the file, documents in the file -- which reflected the denial by CIS/Kentucky -- were altered with what appeared to be correction fluid. The documents were then stamped "approved" using an official CIS stamp that had been assigned exclusively to another CIS employee -- one of WILHITE's subordinates who was then on extended leave and who had since been transferred to CIS's headquarters.

Federal agents executed a search warrant at WILHITE's office and recovered the stamp used to approve the alien's green

card. WILHITE admitted that she "whited out" the denial entries on the alien's file and stamped "approved" on documents in the file, knowing that the alien should not have been approved for a green card. WILHITE further admitted that she removed and shredded the original denial letter issued by CIS/Kentucky.

On September 14, 2006, WILHITE pleaded guilty to a two-count Indictment, each count charging her with making false statements by altering forms in the alien's file reflecting that the green card application had been denied, stamping the application as approved and submitting the altered forms to CIS so that the alien could get a green card.

In addition to home confinement, WILHITE was sentenced to 3 years of probation, a \$2,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment.

WILHITE, 52, lives in Brooklyn.

Assistant United States Attorney SERENE K. NAKANO is in charge of the prosecution.

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