



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 6, 2009**

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**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES QUEENS IMMIGRATION  
ADVISOR FOR IMMIGRATION FRAUD**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and JAMES T. HAYES, JR., Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), announced the arrest yesterday of immigration advisor CLOVER A. PEREZ on charges related to presenting false applications for lawful United States residence status to immigration authorities. PEREZ was arrested yesterday morning at her home in Elmont, New York, by ICE agents.

According to the Complaint unsealed yesterday in Manhattan federal court:

From approximately April 2005 through December 2005, PEREZ, who operated Reliable Clerical Services, Inc. d/b/a Reliable Immigration Services in Queens, New York, prepared applications on behalf of immigrants that she claimed would result in work permits and/or legal residence. PEREZ submitted these applications under the League of United Latin American Citizens ("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. PEREZ, despite knowing that her clients had entered the United States too late to be eligible for the L.U.L.A.C. amnesty program, nevertheless 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").

PEREZ was presented yesterday before Magistrate Judge THEODORE H. KATZ in Manhattan federal court.

PEREZ, 44, of Elmont, New York, is charged with one count of presenting applications to USCIS seeking status as a lawful U.S. resident knowing that such applications contained false statements and had no reasonable basis in law and fact, and one count of failing to disclose her role in preparing baseless applications for lawful U.S. resident status. The first of these charges carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison; the second carries a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison. Each count also carries a potential maximum fine of the greater of \$250,000 or twice the gross pecuniary gain or loss from the offense.

Mr. BHARARA praised the work of ICE in its investigation of this case and thanked USCIS for its assistance.

Assistant United States Attorney NIKETH VELAMOOR is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges and allegations contained in the Complaint against PEREZ are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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