



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Southern District of New York

U.S. ATTORNEY PREET BHARARA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, November 22, 2011
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nys>

CONTACT: Ellen Davis, Carly Sullivan,
Jerika Richardson
(212) 637-2600

IMMIGRATION LAWYER PLEADS GUILTY IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO PARTICIPATING IN INTERNATIONAL ALIEN SMUGGLING RING

Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that HAK TUNG LAM, a Manhattan immigration attorney who participated in an international alien smuggling ring, pled guilty today in Manhattan federal court to conspiracy to encourage and induce aliens to illegally enter and reside in the United States. LAM pled guilty before U.S. District Judge John G. Koeltl.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said: "Hak Tung Lam used his expertise not to help immigrants, but to aid the smugglers who exploited them. As he admitted today, he broke his oath as a lawyer and helped dozens of individuals circumvent the laws of the United States."

According to the Information, other documents filed in this case, and statements made during today's guilty plea proceeding:

From October 2006 to February 2009, LAM worked with others to smuggle dozens of Chinese nationals into the United States. During that time, LAM provided legal and logistical advice to alien smugglers and made false immigration filings on behalf of the smuggled aliens. Among other things, LAM recommended ports of entry, advised on methods of avoiding detection, filed false immigration documents, and obtained the release of detained aliens through fraud. He earned over \$750,000 for his participation in the smuggling ring.

* * *

LAM, 44, pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to encourage and induce aliens to illegally enter and reside in the United States, which carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison. In connection with his plea, LAM agreed forfeit \$750,000 to the United States. He is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Koeltl on March 23, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Bharara thanked the New York Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations for their work in the investigation.

The prosecution is being handled by the Organized Crime Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Justin Anderson, Jason A. Masimore, and Sarah Krissoff are in charge of the prosecution.