



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ATTORNEY SENTENCED IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO
51 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR PREPARING AND SUBMITTING
FRAUDULENT IMMIGRATION APPLICATIONS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that RAGHUBIR K. GUPTA was sentenced late yesterday to 51 months in prison for preparing and submitting fraudulent immigration documents. GUPTA, 63, of Brooklyn, New York, was found guilty on April 7, 2008, after a seven-day trial before United States District Judge DEBORAH A. BATTS, who also imposed the sentence yesterday in Manhattan federal court.

According to documents filed in this case, the evidence presented at trial, and statements made during yesterday's sentencing proceeding:

While practicing as an attorney in Brooklyn, New York, between June 2004 and December 2005, GUPTA charged his clients -- who were illegal immigrants -- thousands of dollars to prepare applications that he claimed would result in work permits, travel authorization, and/or legal residence. GUPTA 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 to apply for legal residence. GUPTA, knowing that his clients had entered the United States too late to be eligible for the L.U.L.A.C. amnesty program and that they did not meet other requirements of the program, nevertheless caused his clients to provide false statements on the L.U.L.A.C. applications, including false dates for their entry into the United States. GUPTA then presented these applications to the United States Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services, knowing that they contained false statements. At sentencing, Judge BATTS found that GUPTA was responsible for at least 100 fraudulent applications.

Mr. BHARARA thanked the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Citizenship and Immigration Services Fraud Detection Unit for

their outstanding work in the investigation.

Assistant United States attorneys LEE RENZIN and DANIEL BRAUN are in charge of the prosecution.

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