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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 25, 2007**

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**U.S. CHARGES WOMAN FOR ROLE
IN IMMIGRATION FRAUD CONSPIRACY**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the 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. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), announced today the arrest of JENNIFER ROWE on charges related to her alleged involvement in a conspiracy to commit visa fraud. According to the Indictment filed and statements made in Manhattan federal court:

ROWE conspired with others in 2004 and 2005 to commit a massive immigration fraud by telling non-immigrant aliens that they were eligible for amnesty under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1986 (the "Amnesty Program"). ROWE and other co-conspirators convinced non-immigrant aliens to give ROWE and the conspirators their passports and payments of between \$1,000 and \$5,000, in exchange for the promise of permanent residency and eventual citizenship. In reality, these non-immigrant aliens were not eligible for the Amnesty Program.

ROWE advertised her services in certain immigrant communities in the New York City area, falsely promising that she could secure permanent residency for individuals. After receiving thousands of dollars, passports and other documentation from non-immigrant aliens, ROWE and her co-conspirators submitted false Amnesty Program applications to the United States Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services on behalf of many of these individuals. Later, when the applicant appeared for an interview with immigration authorities, his or her Amnesty Program application would be denied based upon its obviously fraudulent nature.

ROWE was arrested on Thursday, September 20, 2007, by

officers of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and was released on bail later that day. The case is assigned to United States District Judge PAUL A. CROTTY. If convicted, ROWE faces a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment. The other defendant named in the Indictment, PAPE SECK, is a fugitive.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts 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 Attorney TODD BLANCHE is in charge of the prosecution.

The charge contained in the Indictment is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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