

STATEMENT OF U.S. ATTORNEY GREG FOURATT
ON GUILTY PLEA OF CARL BALDWIN
UNITED STATES v. CARL DEAN BALDWIN, CR 07-2240 JB

Today, Carl Baldwin pleaded guilty to three counts of knowingly assisting employees of his Roswell aircraft painting company in possessing false identification documents. Mr. Baldwin admitted that these employees were illegal aliens and that he knew that at the time they worked for his company. As part of his punishment, Mr. Baldwin will be ordered to pay the maximum statutory fine of \$300,000.00. This is the largest fine ever imposed in an immigration case in New Mexico. In addition to the criminal fine, Mr. Baldwin's company has been administratively sanctioned by the U.S. Department of Labor to the tune of more than \$250,000.00 for employing illegal aliens. On top of that, the U.S. Department of Defense has barred the company from painting DoD aircraft, which was an important component of the company's business and the source of several hundred thousand dollars in revenue every year.

This case should send this strong and unmistakable signal to New Mexico employers: if you hire illegal aliens and assist them in possessing bogus identification to give them the air of legitimacy, you will be criminally prosecuted. Employers should consider themselves now on notice that following the path chosen by Mr. Baldwin risks their freedom, their companies' continued existence, and the livelihoods of the rest of their legitimate employees who have committed no crime at all. Worksite enforcement is a top priority of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is here to stay.

This case was the culmination of a years-long and determined investigation by agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Luis Martinez and Stephen Wong.