



U.S. Department of Justice

**Terrence Berg
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

***Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277***

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758
Khaalid Walls- ICE (313) 226-0726
Sandra Berchtold - FBI (313) 237-206

Oct 15, 2008

EVENT: Guilty Verdict

Defendant: Guan Chen et al

**ANN ARBOR RESTAURANT OWNERS
FOUND GUILTY OF HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS**

Guan Chen, 43 and Hoa Le Chen, 42, both of Ypsilanti were found guilty today by a federal jury in Detroit of harboring illegal aliens, announced Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Andrew Arena, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The jury deliberated for less than three hours before returning the verdict, concluding a four day trial that began on October 7, 2008, with jury selection before United States District

Judge Gerald E. Rosen.

The evidence at trial showed that the Chens operated a Chinese restaurant called New Garden Buffet located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation began an investigation in 2006 into harboring of illegal aliens at the Chen's home. In January, 2007, agents discovered three Hispanic men living in the basement of the Chen's residence. The investigation revealed that the aliens had been living with the Chens for several months. The Chens later admitted they knew the men were in the country illegally and that they allowed them to work in the kitchen of their restaurant.

Acting U.S. Attorney Berg said, "Employers and business owners play an important role in complying with and enforcing the federal immigration laws. When employers abuse the workplace by making it a haven for illegal immigration, they make it harder for the government to enforce the law. Today's verdict shows that such conduct can result in serious consequences for the business owner."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jeanine Jones and Regina McCullough. The case was investigated by ICE and the FBI.