

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 6, 2007

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Leopoldo B. Villanueva was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by United States District Judge Roger T. Benitez to serve two years of probation, perform fifty hours of community service, and pay a fine of \$13,517.55 and a \$100 special assessment, based upon his April 5, 2007 guilty plea to profiting corruptly from his employment as Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) contracting officer.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney AnnaLou Tirol, who prosecuted the case, Villanueva was employed by the DEA as a contracting officer from 1998 to 2004. His duties and responsibilities involved negotiating, overseeing, and managing contracts with DEA vendors. In connection with his guilty plea, Villanueva admitted that between June 2003 and February 2004, he personally received approximately \$13,500 from Redline Towing, a DEA vendor whose contract Villanueva oversaw and managed. As a result, Villanueva was charged with personally and substantially participating as a government officer in a matter in which he had a financial interest, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 208(a).

U.S. Attorney Hewitt praised the efforts of the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General and the Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Professional Responsibility for their investigation of the case.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 06cr2608-BEN

Leopoldo B. Villanueva

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 208(a)

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General
DEA Office of Professional Responsibility