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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**IMMIGRATION LAWYER AND SECOND MAN CONVICTED IN
LABOR/IMMIGRATION FRAUD**

Greenbelt, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland announced that Maqsood Mir, 52, of Potomac, Maryland, and Mohammad Bajwa, 39, of Herndon, Virginia were convicted today on charges of immigration fraud, related to the filing of false immigration documents that allowed illegal aliens to enter and/or remain in the United States.

According to testimony at trial, Mir and Bajwa took advantage of a program administered by the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), in which aliens could enter or remain in the United States for the purpose of working for a United States employer upon receiving an approved Labor Certification. Testimony showed that beginning in 1998 and continuing until 2003, Mir and Bajwa falsified Labor Certification applications, which would allow aliens to emigrate or remain in the United States and make it appear as if the aliens really existed and that they were to be sponsored and work for US employers, when in fact many of those employers knew nothing about the aliens. Testimony showed that some of the alien's names were fictitious, and Mir and Bajwa offered for sale approved immigration documents to the highest bidding aliens.

The jury determined that Mir, an immigration lawyer practicing in Potomac, Maryland; Mir's law firm, Mir Law Associates, LLC; Bajwa, a businessman and sponsoring employer; and, New Superstar Corporation, Bajwa's construction company, were guilty of various charges of filing false Labor Certifications. Mir Law Associates, LLC, Bajwa and Bajwa's company, New Superstar Corporation were also convicted of conspiracy to submit false Labor Certifications and substantive immigration fraud counts.

U.S. Attorney Loucks stated, "This verdict sends a clear message to unscrupulous attorneys and employers who wish to sponsor aliens in the United States that we are committed to vigorously investigating and prosecuting those who would exploit the immigration laws of the United States, particularly since September 11."

The Honorable Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, United States Department of Labor said, " This conviction reinforces the diligence and cooperation among law enforcement agencies to combat complex and far-reaching schemes against government programs. My office is committed to ensuring the integrity of labor certification programs by identifying and investigating corrupt attorneys who, for their own personal gain, knowingly submit fraudulent labor applications."

Cynthia O'Connell, Special Agent-In-Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Baltimore, stated that, "ICE is committed to enforcing immigration laws, particularly involving corrupt attorneys who abuse the system and take advantage of innocent immigrants."

Mir and Bajwa face a maximum sentence of ten years on each immigration fraud charge, and a fine of \$250,000 for each charge. Sentencing is set for July 20, 2005 before the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr.

The case was the result of a three-year investigation by the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys David I. Salem and Chan Park.