



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland
Northern Division*

*Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer*

*36 South Charles Street
Fourth Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD:410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/md>**

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT:
VICKIE E. LEDUC
(410) 209-4885**

**PARALEGAL PLEADS GUILTY TO PARTICIPATING IN
IMMIGRATION FRAUD WITH LAW FIRMS**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Rod J. Rosenstein, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announces that today Elnor Veliev, age 21, of Silver Spring, Maryland pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge William N. Nickerson to conspiring to commit immigration fraud in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia from April 2001 until May 2005.

According to the plea agreement presented to the court, Veliev admitted that he and others, including two lawyers, at two law firms where he worked submitted fraudulent immigration documents in more than 200 cases to assist aliens in getting "green cards" through an employment-based visa program. The program permits an employer to sponsor an alien for an employment position in the United States if the employer has been unable to find qualified U.S. workers to fill the position.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said, "America's immigration and labor laws are undermined by schemes to secure green cards based on false representations about employment."

The Honorable Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Labor said, "With this guilty plea, we are one step closer to the resolution of this scheme to defraud the foreign labor certification program. My office is committed to working closely with other law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute those who conspire to and commit fraud against governmental programs."

According to the plea agreement, the law firms represented both the aliens and the prospective employers. Veliev admitted that the immigrant's prior work experience and qualifications were frequently falsified, the names of employers who had not agreed to sponsor the alien applicants were forged on applications and the recruitment requirements showing that qualified U.S. workers were unavailable for the jobs were manipulated to insure that no U.S. workers would

be considered or hired for the jobs. The law firms charged the aliens as much as \$25,000 each to pursue their visa applications.

Veliev faces a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for December 15, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. Trial for the remaining defendants, two lawyers and two law firms, is set for January 17, 2006. One defendant, Alp Canseven, originally from Turkey, remains a fugitive.

United States Attorney Rosenstein thanked the Department of Labor - Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for their investigation. Mr. Rosenstein also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Martin J. Clarke and Joyce K. McDonald, who are prosecuting the case.