



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 3, 2009

**OWNER AND MANAGERS OF STIX RESTAURANT APPEAR IN COURT
ON FEDERAL CRIMINAL IMMIGRATION CHARGES**

Acting U.S. Attorney Stan Harris announced today that **GIN HSING CHEN a/k/a David Chen**, **SHAO LI CHEN a/k/a Judy Chen a/k/a Judy Wong**, and **KARL KWOK HING WONG** appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Linda R. Anderson today for their arraignment on federal criminal immigration charges. Specifically, the defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury on February 18, 2009, for conspiring to harbor illegal aliens for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain, as owners and managers of Stix Restaurant located in Flowood, Mississippi, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), all in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(i). If convicted, the defendants face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. **SHAO LI CHEN a/k/a Judy Chen a/k/a Judy Wong** and **KARL KWOK HING WONG** were also indicted for harboring illegal aliens and encouraging illegal aliens to reside in the United States for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) and 1324(a)(1)(A)(iv). If convicted, **SHAO LI CHEN a/k/a Judy Chen a/k/a Judy Wong**, and **KARL KWOK HING WONG** face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count. Trial is scheduled to begin in Jackson, Mississippi, before U.S. District Judge William H. Barbour on May 5, 2009.

According to the indictment, **GIN HSING CHEN a/k/a David Chen** was the owner of Stix Restaurant, while his sister, **SHAO LI CHEN a/k/a Judy Chen a/k/a Judy Wong** and her husband, **KARL KWOK HING WONG**, managed the Flowood eatery. The indictment alleges that the defendants would hire illegal aliens knowing that such aliens were illegal, pay illegal alien employees in cash while paying legal employees by check, provide housing to illegal alien employees in apartments leased by the defendants or in a house owned by **GIN HSING CHEN a/k/a David Chen**, transport illegal alien employees between the restaurant and employer-provided housing, and not report illegal alien employees to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security or the Internal Revenue Service as required by law. In addition, the indictment also recounts the arrest of 15 illegal alien employees of Stix Restaurant from May 2006 through March 2008, when the restaurant was ultimately raided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), where a total of nine additional illegal aliens were arrested.

Acting U.S. Attorney Harris underscored that the U.S. Attorney's Office will vigorously prosecute employers who violate federal immigration laws. "The U.S. Attorney's Office recognizes that illegal immigration is no longer just an economic issue, but is a national security issue as well. Among the most effective ways to combat illegal immigration is reducing opportunities for unlawful employment, and the Federal Government has provided tools for employers to use in verifying eligibility of employees. Such tools eliminate excuses for illegal hiring, and the Government has put employers on notice that they are expected to follow the law. If employers do not follow the law, Federal investigative agencies and the U.S. Attorney's Office will vigorously pursue them."

Harris commended the investigative efforts of the Special Agents who handled this case for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and for the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mike Hurst. Harris also noted that, as in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.

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