



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER,
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL,
JANICE OH
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY AND WIFE FOUND GUILTY
OF ASYLUM FRAUD**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that New York immigration attorney JAMES CHRISTO and his wife, REMILA CHRISTO, were found guilty today of conspiracy to commit immigration fraud following a one-week trial before United States District Judge DAVID HITTNER, sitting by designation in the Southern District of New York.

As established by the evidence presented at trial:

JAMES CHRISTO, with the assistance of his wife, operated a law firm in Manhattan that, among other things, assisted aliens of Albanian nationality with applications for political asylum. In April and May 2004, the CHRISTOs worked together to help a "client" -- who was actually an undercover FBI agent posing as an Albanian immigrant -- to create and document a fake story of persecution in support of an application for political asylum.

JAMES CHRISTO, 44, and REMILA CHRISTO, 35, of Jersey City, New Jersey, were both found guilty of one count of conspiracy to commit immigration fraud and face a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison. CHRISTO was found not guilty on a second count of conspiracy to commit immigration fraud. Sentencing of the CHRISTOs is scheduled for July 17, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. DASSIN praised Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their work on the case.

Assistant United States Attorneys RUA M. KELLY and BRENT S. WIBLE are in charge of the prosecution. This case is being prosecuted by the Public Corruption Unit of the United States Attorney's Office.