

January 2015 Immigration Fraud Reading List

*Prepared by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)
Fraud and Abuse Prevention Program*

Fraud Against Immigrants, Including the Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL):

▪ **December 29, 2014** – State alleges Montoya violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act (San Antonio, TX)

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/article/The-Texas-Attorney-General-s-Office-alleges-5984081.php>

▪ **December 18, 2014** – Brooklyn Woman Indicted For Defrauding Five Immigrants (Brooklyn, NY)

http://www.brooklynda.org/press_releases/pdf/dec/whittington_nickya_ind_12_15_2014.pdf

<http://www.themontserratreporter.com/american-national-indicted-for-defrauding-caribbean-immigrants/>

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/brooklyn-woman-busted-immigration-scam-prosecutor-article-1.2050275>

▪ **December 16, 2014** – Private school officials jailed on charges of defrauding immigrants (Lawrenceville, GA)

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/private-school-officials-jailed-on-charges-of-defr/njTLg/>

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/couple-arrested-selling-fake-diplomas/njTT9/>

See also:

▪ **December 2, 2014** – Students seeking deportation deferrals allege school defrauded them (Lawrenceville, GA)

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/students-seeking-deportation-deferrals-allege-scho/njKRt/>

▪ **December 15, 2014** – Boulder jury finds immigration attorney Emily Cohen guilty on 13 theft counts (Boulder, CO)

http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci_27140454/boulder-jury-finds-immigration-attorney-emily-cohen-guilty

<http://www.asiaeu.com/local/boulder-jury-finds-immigration-attorney-emily-cohen-guilty-on-13-theft-counts-h77484.html>

▪ **December 15, 2014** – Waltham Man Ordered to Stop Engaging in the Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law (Boston, MA)

<http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2014/2014-12-15-barahona-pi.html>

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/article/20141215/NEWS/141217816/12581/NEWS?rssfeed=true>

▪ **December 12, 2014** – LaVernia Restaurant Operator Pleads Guilty To Immigration Document Fraud Scheme (San Antonio, TX)

<http://www.justice.gov/usao-wdtx/pr/lavernia-restaurant-operator-pleads-guilty-immigration-document-fraud-scheme>

<http://www.fbi.gov/sanantonio/press-releases/2014/lavernia-restaurant-operator-pleads-guilty-to-immigration-document-fraud-scheme>

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/blog/morning-edition/2014/12/lavernia-resident-pleads-guilty-to-defrauding.html>

▪ **November 10, 2014** – Arkansas AG alleges woman deceiving immigrants (Little Rock, AR)

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/nov/10/arkansas-ag-alleges-woman-deceiving-immigrants/print/>

<http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/mcdaniel-sues-seller-of-id-cards-notaria-services>

Facilitators of Immigration Fraud:

▪ **December 30, 2014** - Former Lexington County Sheriff James R. Metts Pleads Guilty to Conspiring to Harbor and Conceal Illegal Aliens (Columbia, SC)

<http://www.fbi.gov/columbia/press-releases/2014/former-lexington-county-sheriff-james-r.-metts-pleads-guilty-to-conspiring-to-harbor-and-conceal-illegal-aliens>

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/12/30/judge-accepts-plea-deal-for-james-metts/21047217/>

▪ **December 19, 2014** – Sacramento man admits to orchestrating elaborate marriage fraud scheme (Sacramento, CA)

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/sacramento-man-admits-orchestrating-elaborate-marriage-fraud-scheme>

http://www.justice.gov/usao/cae/news/docs/2014/2014_12/12-19-14Lal.html

▪ **December 10, 2014** – Bay Area businessman pleads guilty in visa fraud scheme (Oakland, CA)

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/bay-area-businessman-pleads-guilty-visa-fraud-scheme>

<http://www.justice.gov/usao-ndca/pr/british-citizen-pleads-guilty-conspiracy-commit-visa-fraud>

- **December 4, 2014** - Mexican National Pleads Guilty To Conspiracy To Sell False ID Documents To Illegal Aliens (Kansas City, MO)
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mow/news2014/medina.ple.html>

- **December 3, 2014** - Mexican National Pleads Guilty To Selling Fake Identification, Illegal Reentry To The U.S. (Shreveport, LA)
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/law/news/wdla20141203.html>

- **December 3, 2014** – Identity Trafficker in Puerto Rico Sentenced to 81 Months in Prison (San Juan, PR)
<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/identity-trafficker-puerto-rico-sentenced-81-months-prison>

- **November 21, 2014** – Former Newark City Hall Employee Pleads Guilty To Producing Fraudulent Birth Certificates (Newark, NJ)
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nj/Press/files/Cooke,%20Cory%20Plea%20News%20Release.html>

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/former-newark-city-hall-employee-pleads-guilty-producing-fraudulent-birth-certificates>

- **November 21, 2014** – Former central Texas police chief sentenced to 4 ½ years in federal prison for bribery (Austin, TX)
<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/former-central-texas-police-chief-sentenced-4.5-years-federal-prison-bribery>

- **November 18, 2014** – Guilty Plea In Immigration And Tax Fraud Scheme (Philadelphia, PA)
<http://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/guilty-plea-immigration-and-tax-fraud-scheme>

<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/hsi-philadelphia-brings-down-immigration-and-tax-fraud-scheme>

- **November 18, 2014**—Three sentenced for selling unauthorized WV licenses (Martinsburg, WV)
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/wvn/news/2014/november/Garcia%20Hernandez%20Miller.html>

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/hsi-pittsburgh-case-leads-dmv-fraud-scheme-sentences>

- **November 14, 2014**—Chinese National Sentenced to Forty-One Months for Scheme to Aid Undocumented Aliens in Obtaining Drivers' Licenses (Albuquerque, NM)
http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/press-releases/2014/Nov/435-2014-11-14_gan.html

- **November 13, 2014**—Lawyer Sentenced In Manhattan Federal Court To Five Years In Prison In Connection With Leadership Of Asylum Fraud Ring (New York, NY)
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nys/pressreleases/November14/LiuFengLingSentencingPR.php>

- **November 12, 2014** – Florida Man Sentenced For Smuggling Albanian Citizens Into The United States (Atlanta, GA)
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/gan/press/2014/11-12-14b.html>

Fraud by Individuals (or Businesses) for Their Own Benefit:

▪ **December 30, 2014** - Dominican man sentenced in fraudulent identity document scheme (Boston, MA)
<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/dominican-man-sentenced-fraudulent-identity-document-scheme>

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/dr/world/2015/1/5/53807/Dominican-man-sentenced-to-10-months-in-prison-in-US>

▪ **December 22, 2014** - Jamaican Man Sentenced for Fraudulently Obtaining a U.S. Passport (Philadelphia, PA)

<http://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/2014-12-22-000000/jamaican-man-sentenced-fraudulently-obtaining-us>

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/hsi-philadelphia-works-federal-partners-catch-passport-fraud-criminal>

<http://www.caribbeantoday.com/caribbean-news/local-news/item/20055-jamaican-national-jailed-for-fake-us-passport.html>

▪ **December 18, 2014** – Gretna Man Sentenced for Illegal [U]se of A Social Security Number (New Orleans, LA)

<http://www.justice.gov/usao-edla/pr/gretna-man-sentenced-illegal-use-social-security-number>

▪ **December 15, 2014** – 2 charged with harboring, inducing aliens to work at Harrisonburg restaurant (Harrisonburg, VA)

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/2-charged-harboring-inducing-aliens-work-harrisonburg-restaurant>

http://www.justice.gov/usao/vaw/news/alvarado_15dec2014.html

▪ **December 11, 2014** – Romanian Man Sentenced to Prison for Role in International Fraud Scheme Involving Online Marketplace Websites [and for Passport Fraud] (Miami, FL)

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/romanian-man-sentenced-prison-role-international-fraud-scheme-involving-online-marketplace>

▪ **December 5, 2014** – Romanian National Sentenced For Unlawful Procurement Of United States Citizenship (Boise, ID)

<http://www.justice.gov/usao-id/pr/romanian-national-sentenced-unlawful-procurement-united-states-citizenship>

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/id/news/2014/dec/briciu12052014.html>

▪ **December 5, 2014** – ST. KITTS NATIONAL INDICTED ON ILLEGAL REENTRY AND RELATED CHARGES (St. Thomas, VI)

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/vi/pressreleases/2014-12-05.html>

▪ **December 4, 2014** – Rancho Cordova Man Indicted For Passport And Immigration Fraud (Sacramento, CA)

http://www.justice.gov/usao/cae/news/docs/2014/2014_12/12-04-14Singh.html

- **December 1, 2014** – Man Sentenced To Prison For Passport Fraud And Social Security Fraud (Cedar Rapids, IA)
http://www.justice.gov/usao/ian/news/2014/dec_14/12_1_14_Sierra-Mendez.html

- **December 1, 2014**—Chester County Business Owner Admits to Immigration Fraud Scheme (Philadelphia, PA)
http://www.justice.gov/usao/pae/News/2014/December/majety_release.htm

<http://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/chester-county-business-owner-admits-immigration-fraud-scheme>

- **November 21, 2014** – DANNY HENDON, FORMER OWNER OF DANNY’S CAR WASH, SENTENCED TO 12 MONTHS HOME CONFINEMENT FOR OVERSEEING MULTI-YEAR, COMPANY-WIDE SCHEME TO EMPLOY UNAUTHORIZED ALIENS (Phoenix, AZ)
http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press_releases/2014/PR_11212014_Dannys_Family_Car_Wash.html

- **November 21, 2014**—Jamaican National Convicted Following Jury Trial (Rochester, NY)
<http://www.justice.gov/usao-wdny/pr/jamaican-national-convicted-following-jury-trial>

- **November 21, 2014** – Sylvania Man Sentenced To Nearly Five Years In Prison For Criminal Schemes Centered Around IHOP Restaurants (Cleveland, OH)
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/ohn/news/2014/21novkhdeer.html>

- **November 19, 2014**—Man Pleads Guilty During Trial On Charge Of Unlawfully Procuring Citizenship (Pittsburgh, PA)
http://www.justice.gov/usao/paw/news/2014/2014_november/2014_11_19_06.html

- **November 14, 2014** – Man Sentenced To Time Served For Illegal Re-Entry And Use Of A False Social Security Number To Obtain Employment (Cedar Rapids, IA)
http://www.justice.gov/usao/ian/news/2014/nov_14/11_14_14_Marroquin-Asturias.html

- **November 13, 2014** – Illegal Alien Sentenced To Over [Two] Years In Prison For Aggravated Identity Theft (Cedar Rapids, IA)
http://www.justice.gov/usao/ian/news/2014/nov_14/11_13_14_Bautista-Rubio.html

- **November 10, 2014** – Naturalized US citizen convicted on immigration fraud charges for failing to disclose terrorism conviction (Detroit, MI)
<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/naturalized-us-citizen-convicted-immigration-fraud-charges-failing-disclose-terrorism>

http://www.justice.gov/usao/mie/news/2014/2014_11_10_rodh.html

See also:

- **December 11, 2014** – Arab activist freed awaiting immigration sentence (Detroit, MI)
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/dec/11/arab-activist-freed-awaiting-immigration-sentence/>

▪ **November 6, 2014** – Dominican Republic Native Charged With Impersonating Another (Philadelphia, PA)

<http://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/dominican-republic-native-charged-impersonating-another>

▪ **November 4, 2014** – Illegal Alien Pleads Guilty To Passport Fraud, Aggravated Identity Theft, Alien Harboring, And Registering To Vote In A Federal Election (Cedar Rapids, IA)

http://www.justice.gov/usao/ian/news/2014/nov_14/11_4_14_Hernandez-Labra.html

http://globegazette.com/news/local/illegal-immigrant-living-in-hampton-pleads-guilty-in-federal-court/article_a25fe30d-904e-59a9-94de-9c837430ffc6.html

Related Matters:

▪ **December 16, 2014** – EOIR Announces a New Voluntary [Accreditation Request] Form (Falls Church, VA)

<http://www.justice.gov/eoir/press/2014/NewRAform12162014.html>

<http://www.justice.gov/eoir/eoirforms/eoir31a.pdf>

▪ **December 13, 2014** – Council cracks down on those who prey on immigrant newcomers (Philadelphia, PA)

http://articles.philly.com/2014-12-13/news/56993752_1_ordinance-philadelphia-city-council-african-immigrants

▪ **December 10, 2014** – GAO will audit EB-5 program for investor visas (Washington, DC)

http://seattletimes.com/html/business/technology/2025210624_eb5auditxml.html

▪ **December 8, 2014** – Better Business Bureau: “Watch Out for This U.S. Green Card Scam”

<http://www.bbb.org/blog/2014/12/watch-out-for-this-u-s-green-card-scam/>

▪ **December 4, 2014** – Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Issues Consumer Alert on Driver License Scams Targeting Immigrants (San Francisco, CA)

<http://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-issues-consumer-alert-driver-license-scams>

▪ **November 21, 2014** – Visa fraud in US tech industry relies on falsified job letters

<https://beta.cironline.org/reports/visa-fraud-in-us-tech-industry-relies-on-falsified-job-letters/>

▪ **November 17, 2014** – Border Patrol Agent Pleads Guilty to Harboring Undocumented Aliens (Laredo, TX)

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/txs/1News/Releases/2014%20November/141117%20-%20Rodriguez.html>

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/border-patrol-agent-pleads-guilty-harboring-illegal-aliens>

▪ **November 14, 2014** – News 13 Investigates: Marriage Fraud in Myrtle Beach (Myrtle Beach, SC)

<http://www.wsav.com/story/27382844/news-13-investigates-marriage-fraud-in-myrtle-beach>

▪ **November 9, 2014** – Oklahoma, Texas officials deal with ‘notario’ scammers capitalizing on a literal translation to defraud immigrants (Oklahoma City, OK)

<http://newsok.com/oklahoma-texas-officials-deal-with-notario-scammers-capitalizing-on-a-literal-translation-to-defraud-immigrants/article/5364917>

▪ **October 22, 2014** – EOIR Expands Legal Orientation Program Sites (Falls Church, VA)

<http://www.justice.gov/eoir/press/2014/EOIRExpandsLOP.html>

<http://www.justice.gov/eoir/press/2014/OLAPFactSheetOctober2014.htm>

▪ **October 13, 2014** – The Kitchen Network: *America’s underground Chinese restaurant workers* (New York, NY)

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/10/13/cooka%C2%80%C2%99s-tale>

▪ **October 6, 2014** – New E-Verify Service Combats Fraud, Protects Identity, Educates Workers (Washington, DC)

<http://www.uscis.gov/news/new-e-verify-service-combats-fraud-protects-identity-educates-workers>

In the wake of President Obama’s November 20, 2014, announcement regarding Executive Action on immigration, a number of governmental entities issued notario scam alerts and media outlets reported on the issue. Here are some of the alert notices and news stories:

▪ **December 18, 2014** – Executive Action: LA officials warn of scams aimed at immigrants hoping for deportation protection (Los Angeles, CA)

<http://www.scp.org/blogs/multiamerican/2014/12/18/17699/executive-action-la-officials-warn-of-scams-aimed/>

http://atty.lacity.org/stellent/groups/electedofficials/@atty_contributor/documents/contributor_web_content/lacityp_029541.pdf

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-immigration-fraud-20141219-story.html>

▪ **December 18, 2014** – Oregon immigrants warned of ‘notario fraud’ in applying for Obama’s protection from deportation (Portland, OR)

http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2014/12/oregon_immigrants_reminded_to.html

▪ **December 16, 2014** – Advocates warn scams will intensify in wake of Obama’s immigration reforms (Las Vegas, NV)

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2014/dec/16/advocates-warn-scams-will-intensify-wake-obamas-im/>

▪ **December 12, 2014** – Preparing for Immigration Reform, and Warning of Potential Fraud (New York, NY)

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/13/nyregion/preparing-for-immigration-reform-and-warning-of-potential-fraud.html?_r=0

- **November 30, 2014** – Legal Experts Warn Immigrant Families: Beware of ‘Notario’ Scams (Washington, DC)
<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/legal-experts-warn-immigrant-families-beware-notario-scams-n256671>

- **November 27, 2014** – Immigration advocacy groups fear more efforts to scam those seeking legal status (San Diego, CA)
http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/immigration-advocacy-groups-fear-more-efforts-to-scam-those-seeking-legal-status/2014/11/27/a604de2a-7677-11e4-a755-e32227229e7b_story.html

- **November 27, 2014** – Tulsa County Sheriff’s office warns undocumented immigrants about ‘notario fraud’ (Tulsa, OK)
http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/local/tulsa-county-sheriff-s-office-warns-undocumented-immigrants-about-notario/article_b68f063c-7729-540e-9e8b-0d15228a9528.html?mode=print

- **November 26, 2014** – Advocates Warn Immigrants To Watch Out For Scammers
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/26/immigration-scammers_n_6225946.html

- **November 26, 2014** – STATE BAR WARNS CONSUMERS ON POSSIBLE IMMIGRATION FRAUD (San Francisco, CA)
<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/AboutUs/News/ThisYearsNewsReleases/201427.aspx>

- **November 25, 2014** – Obama’s immigration action creates an opening for scam artists too
<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-immigration-fraud-20141125-story.html>

- **November 25, 2014** – Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Issues Consumer Alert on Scams Targeting Immigrants and their Families (San Francisco, CA)
<http://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-issues-consumer-alert-scams-targeting>

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/30/tp-state-ag-warns-of-immigration-scams/>

- **November 25, 2014** – Nevada Officials Warn of Immigration Scams (Las Vegas, NV)
<http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/Nevada-Officials-Warn-of-Immigration-Scams-283744401.html>

http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2014/Consumer_Protection/Attorney_General_Masto,_Secretary_Of_State_Miller,_Warn_Nevadans_of_Immigration_Services_Scams/

- **November 24, 2014** – Following Executive Action on Immigration, Advocates Fear Onslaught of Scams
<http://www.ibtimes.com/following-executive-action-immigration-advocates-fear-onslaught-scams-1728673>

- **November 21, 2014** – MADIGAN WARNS OF FRAUDULENT IMMIGRATION SERVICES PROVIDERS (Chicago, IL)
http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2014_11/20141121.html

▪ **November 21, 2014** – A.G. Schneiderman Warns Immigrants To Avoid Becoming Victims Of Potential Scams As President Announces Executive Action On Immigration Policy (New York, NY)

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-warns-immigrants-avoid-becoming-victims-potential-scams-president>

▪ **November 21, 2014** – As Obama hands many immigrants a reprieve, hucksters wait to defraud them

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/11/21/as-obama-hands-many-immigrants-a-reprieve-hucksters-wait-to-defraud-them/>