



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
**CONSUMER &
BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

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PRESS RELEASE

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CONVICTION SECURED AGAINST IMMIGRATION CONSULTANT AFTER DCBA AND L.A. CITY ATTORNEY JOINT INVESTIGATION

After a joint investigation by the County of Los Angeles Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) and Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer, Gloria Dora Saucedo has been convicted for the unlicensed practice of immigration law. Her business, Hermandad Mexicana Transnacional, has also been convicted of performing unauthorized paralegal services which allegedly adversely affected the immigration status of some clients.

Saucedo entered a plea of no contest to one count of unauthorized practice of law and was sentenced to 24 months of probation and 200 hours of community service. Hermandad Mexicana Transnacional, Inc. (7915 Van Nuys Boulevard) entered a plea of no contest to an infraction for performing unauthorized paralegal services and will pay a \$2,000 fine.

Payment of the fine, restitution and fulfillment of community service has been stayed by the court pending appeal. A restitution hearing for seven clients of Hermandad Mexicana Transnacional is scheduled for October 7, 2016.

“The Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs is committed to educating, defending, and speaking up for the County’s most vulnerable residents,” said Brian J. Stiger, Director. “If you believe you have been a victim of an immigration service or any other scam, we want to help you.”

Immigration consultants are not lawyers and have a very limited and specific role in helping someone complete the process to change their immigration status. This includes completing forms, translating answers, securing supporting documents, submitting forms, and making referrals to licensed attorneys.

(Continued)



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An immigration consultant must provide a written contract to consumers and cannot receive payment until they have completed the service. Immigration consultants must also post signs to make it clear that they are not licensed attorneys.

Victims of Hermandad Mexicana are urged to call DCBA Investigators Annette Gonzalez at (323) 881-7099 or Janet Godoy at (213) 974-7241. Victims with similar complaints against other immigration service providers can contact DCBA at (800) 593-8222 or file a complaint online at dcbalacounty.gov. All of DCBA's services are free and anyone can file a complaint regardless of their immigration status.

Since 1976, the County of Los Angeles Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) has served consumers, businesses, and communities through education, advocacy, and complaint resolution. We work every day to educate consumers and small business owners about their rights and responsibilities, mediate disputes, investigate consumer fraud complaints, and enforce Los Angeles County's minimum wage ordinance. For more information, visit dcbalacounty.gov

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