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QUEENS MAN CHARGED WITH PRACTICING LAW WITHOUT LICENSE

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Ridgewood resident has been charged with unlawfully practicing law for the last two years and taking \$7,000 in fees from a client whose son he allegedly represented in a deportation case – and who was ultimately deported.

District Attorney Brown said, “By allegedly portraying himself as a duly licensed attorney when he was not actually licensed or admitted to practice law, the only hope that the defendant could offer his client was false hope. In the end, the client lost her son and thousands of dollars in unwarranted legal fees. The case will be prosecuted vigorously and swiftly to ensure that the defendant never again has an opportunity to prey upon trusting individuals in need of proper and qualified legal representation.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Robert DelCarpio, 63, of 783 Seneca Avenue in Ridgewood, Queens. The defendant was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Joseph Raciti on a two-count complaint charging him with third-degree grand larceny and practicing or appearing as an attorney-at-law without being admitted/registered. DelCarpio, who faces up to four years in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$100,000 bond/\$75,000 cash bail and to return to court on July 11, 2008.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, Angela Forde, of Brooklyn, retained DelCarpio as an attorney to represent her son who was facing deportation to England. Ms. Forde had received the defendant’s name and telephone number from her son who was in immigration detention in Texas. It is alleged that the defendant agreed to appear as her son’s counsel and to represent his legal interests in connection with the appeal of a felony narcotics conviction in Brooklyn and in the pending federal deportation proceedings, which were predicated, in part, on the Brooklyn conviction.

It is further charged that, in setting forth a payment schedule to Ms. Forde in a letter captioned: Criminal Legal Research Inc., Post Conviction Relief and bearing the signature and title: Robert A. DelCarpio, Appellate Attorney, the defendant indicated that he would, among other services, prepare and file legal motions and appear in Brooklyn Supreme Court to have her son’s criminal conviction overturned. Between December 1, 2006, and May 31, 2008, Ms. Forde allegedly made payments in excess of \$7,000 to the defendant. According to court records, the defendant is not admitted to practice law in New York State and no appeals were filed by the defendant or by anyone on his behalf at anytime in connection with criminal case involving Ms. Forde’s son.

(MORE)

District Attorney Brown asks that anyone who believes that he or she may have been a victim of the defendants' alleged scheme to contact his Integrity Bureau at 718-286-6560.

District Attorney Brown expressed his appreciation to James E. Pelzer, Clerk of the New York State Appellate Division, Second Department, for referring the matter to his office.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Joseph Brancaccio and Sergeant Evelyn Alegre, of the District Attorney's Detective Bureau, under the supervision of Lieutenant Robert J. Burke and the overall supervision of Chief Investigator Lawrence J. Festa and Deputy Chief Investigator Albert D. Velardi.

Assistant District Attorney Phyllis C. Weiss, of the District Attorney's Integrity Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys James M. Liander, Bureau Chief, and Carmencita N. Gutierrez, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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(Note to Editors: An e-version of this press release is posted on the QDA website at www.queensda.org)