



Maricopa County Attorney

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This Just in from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.....

March 13, 2010

County Attorney Andrew Thomas announced today that Raphael Libardi (DOB 3/9/61) has now begun his six month jail sentence after pleading guilty in an employer sanctions related case.

Libardi was arrested in July 2009 following a joint employer sanctions investigation by the Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office. Libardi was in the United States illegally. He started using the social security number of an elderly man as early as 2002 to establish his business. The victim had passed away in December, 2008. On October 21, 2009 Libardi pled guilty to two counts of ID theft. He was sentenced on January 11, 2010 to six months in jail. The state had asked for prison time. Libardi began serving his sentence on February 28. Deputy County Attorney David Ames prosecuted the case.

Since enforcement of the employer sanctions began in 2008 there have been more than 224 arrests for ID Theft and Forgery, crimes that occurred as the result of unauthorized employees obtaining work in Maricopa County.

Thomas stated, "A jail sentence for a business owner and a recent agreement that closed another business for two days with assurances of future legal hiring are proof that the Legal Arizona Workers Act has cleared some significant legal hurdles and is now an effective deterrent. The result is that citizens and legal immigrants are not forced to compete with unauthorized workers in a struggling economy."

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**If you have any questions please contact Mike Anthony Scerbo at
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