

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Upland Man Pleads No Contest in Immigration Services Scam

An Upland man was sentenced today to five years in county jail and must pay more than \$400,000 in restitution for running a fraudulent immigration services business, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Augusto "Tito" Gonzalez De La Cruz, 58, pleaded no contest to seven felony counts of grand theft and admitted an allegation of a loss of property valued at more than \$200,000, according to Deputy District Attorney Ryann Gerber Jorban of the Consumer Protection Division.

Gonzalez De La Cruz was immediately sentenced to jail, to be followed by four years of mandatory supervision, as part of the negotiated plea agreement. He was ordered to pay a total of \$404,000 in restitution to the 35 victims listed in the amended criminal complaint.

From January 2006 through February 2018, Gonzalez De La Cruz received payment from the victims for immigration services they never received. He claimed to be an immigration attorney and falsely promised to expedite the processing of visas, resident alien cards and citizenship petitions, among other services.

Fifteen people were named as victims when charges were filed in February. Another 20 victims were subsequently identified with the help of a telephone hotline set up by the District Attorney's Office.

The victims were primarily from Los Angeles County.

The Azusa Police Department investigated case BA465267.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.