

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Immigration Attorney Sentenced to Probation for Assisting Alien in Immigration Fraud Scheme

ATLANTA - Bonnie Monique Youn has been sentenced to two years on probation for her role in submitting a false application to adjust status on behalf of a Korean citizen to the Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"Youn is an immigration attorney and has a thorough familiarity with immigration rules yet she advised an alien to fraudulently file an application with immigration services claiming to be employed by an entity she controlled," said U. S. Attorney John Horn. "Her sentence and prohibition to practice law for two years are appropriate punishment for submitting false information to United States Immigration authorities."

"Immigration fraud presents a serious threat to the national security of our country," said Special Agent in Charge of ICE Homeland Security Investigations Atlanta Nick S. Annan. "Illegal schemes like this not only undermine the integrity of our nation's legal immigration system, but they create potential security vulnerabilities while also cheating deserving immigrants of benefits they rightfully deserve."

According to U.S. Attorney Horn, the charges and other information presented in court: Youn filed an application to adjust status based upon employment on behalf of her client, C.O.M.P. The application stated that C.O.M.P. worked for the Asian American Educational Foundation of Georgia (AAEFG) as an accountant in 2006-07 and again in 2010. The application included wage and tax and payroll records that would appear to support the representation that C.O.M.P. had worked for AAEFG.

In September 2011, federal agents interviewed C.O.M.P. at the hair products business that she and her husband ran near Baton Rouge, Louisiana. C.O.M.P. initially told the agents that she worked for AAEFG in 2006-07 and 2010. As the interview progressed, however, the agents noticed that C.O.M.P., who was standing behind a counter, appeared to be looking down at something before she would answer their questions. When confronted, C.O.M.P. admitted that she was referring to notes that Youn and Youn's paralegal helped her prepare in the event that she was interviewed by federal

agents about her alleged employment at AAEEFG. C.O.M.P. admitted that she never worked for AAEEFG and that she never lived in Georgia.

She also admitted that she would send money to AAEEFG and that AAEEFG would in turn send her payroll checks. The false payroll scheme involving C.O.M.P. began when AAEEFG was controlled by Youn.

Youn instructed C.O.M.P. to obtain a Georgia driver's license to use as proof of her residency in the state during the time that she allegedly worked for AAEEFG. Although C.O.M.P. never lived in Georgia, she obtained the state driver's license with the intent to use it to prove that she lived in Georgia and worked at AAEEFG in the event she was ever questioned about her alleged employment at AAEEFG.

Bonnie Monique Youn, 46, of Tucker, Georgia, was sentenced to two years on probation by U.S. District Judge Amy Totenberg, and was ordered to pay a \$5,245 fine. Pursuant to her plea agreement with the United States, Youn closed her law office on March 31, 2016. As part of her sentence, Youn is prohibited from practicing law until April 1, 2018. Youn pleaded guilty on Jan. 20, 2016, to a negotiated plea.

This case was investigated by Special Agents with Homeland Security Investigations and the Office of the Inspector General for the United States Department of Labor.

Assistant United States Attorneys William L. McKinnon, Jr. and Lynsey Barron prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact the U.S. Attorney's Public Affairs Office at USAGAN.PressEmails@usdoj.gov

Email links icon

or (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <http://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga>.