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Hello,

CONSTRUCTION-IMMIGRATION LAW UPDATE:

High-Profile Contractors and Employers Draw More Attention from U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

In 2007, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) made over 4000 administrative arrests at job sites, and over 800 those arrested were criminally charged. ICE has confirmed that contractors and other companies that perform "high profile" work are at a higher risk of attracting the attention of ICE officials.

ICE officials arrested 57 illegally present foreign nationals during a worksite enforcement operation at Universal Industrial Sales Inc. in Lindon, Utah. Universal Industrial Sales was charged with 10 counts of harboring illegal aliens, all of whom were current or former employees of the company. The indictment alleges the company concealed, harbored or shielded the workers from detection for commercial advantage.

In a related story, ICE agents executed a sealed federal search warrant at Micro Solutions Enterprises, a privately-owned manufacturer of computer imaging supplies in Van Nuys, California. Eight current and former employees were taken into custody on federal criminal charges for providing fraudulent information in order to obtain employment. In addition to those arrested on criminal charges, ICE agents found 130 workers at the plant who were in the United States without authorization.

These events demonstrate ICE's redoubled efforts to prosecute owners, contractors and others who are aware of the employment of unauthorized foreign nationals. To learn more about this and related immigration issues, please contact us.

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