

**ROBERT T. SCHOFIELD, U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

Robert T. Schofield worked for 30 years in the Washington district office of what is now called the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”), located within the Department of Homeland Security. That office processes immigration applications.<sup>1</sup> Between 1998 and 2004, Mr. Schofield served as assistant deputy director of Examinations, with responsibility for a range of activities, including hearing appeals from immigration applicants.<sup>2</sup> Previously, he worked at the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (“INS”) where he once was demoted for “conduct unbecoming of a government employee” and had an “inappropriate relationship” with a woman connected to an INS criminal probe.<sup>3</sup> When INS officials confronted Mr. Schofield with that relationship, he fled to east Asia where he charged \$36,000 worth of unauthorized purchases on his government-issued credit card.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Schofield was never prosecuted for these actions. Subsequently, when the Department of Homeland Security took over the INS’s functions in 2003, he was promoted to a supervisor.<sup>5</sup>

In June 2006, Mr. Schofield was arrested and charged with illegally granting residency and issuing naturalization certificates to more than 100 unqualified immigrants as part of an eight-year long scam run out of his Fairfax, Virginia office.<sup>6</sup> In one case, an unqualified immigrant was granted residency after meeting Mr. Schofield’s wife in the Philippines, and then living with Mr. Schofield and babysitting his step-child for a year.<sup>7</sup> When stopped by a U.S. Customs official at the airport, the immigrant provided Mr. Schofield’s name, cell phone number and home telephone number from memory.<sup>8</sup> Typically, Mr. Schofield worked through a network of brokers who brought him immigrants needing citizenship, a green card, or entry into the

---

<sup>1</sup> U.S. v. Robert T. Schofield, Crim. No. 06-427, Memorandum Opinion, p. 1 (E.D. Va. Nov. 22, 2006). (Exhibit 1)

<sup>2</sup> Jerry Markon, Fairfax Man Accused of Illegally Helping Immigrants, *The Washington Post*, June 30, 2006 (Exhibit 2); Jerry Markon, Immigration Official Pleads Guilty to Falsifying Documents, *The Washington Post*, December 1, 2006. (Exhibit 3)

<sup>3</sup> Markon, *The Washington Post*, June 30, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>6</sup> A Look at Corruption Cases Involving Immigration Officers, *Associated Press*, September 18, 2006 (Exhibit 4); U.S. Official Pleads Guilty of Accepting Bribes from Asians, *The Press Trust of India*, December 1, 2006. (Exhibit 5)

<sup>7</sup> *Associated Press*, Sept. 18, 2006.

<sup>8</sup> Id.

United States.<sup>9</sup>

In November 2006, Mr. Schofield pleaded guilty and admitted receiving more than \$600,000 in bribes (up to \$10,000 per immigrant) for falsifying documents for illegal immigrants.<sup>10</sup> He used some of the money to buy a \$387,000 home.<sup>11</sup> Following his arrest, Mr. Schofield was placed on indefinite suspension without pay from USCIS and he resigned in November 2006.<sup>12</sup> He is currently in prison awaiting sentencing in February 2007, when he could face up to 25 years in prison.<sup>13</sup>

In July 2006, Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) sent a letter to Emilio T. Gonzalez, Director of USCIS, regarding Mr. Schofield's arrest and demanding to know how "a man with this history was in a supervisory position in [USCIS], where he could exploit his position of trust to sell U.S. citizenship to the highest bidder?"<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*; Markon, *The Washington Post*, June 30, 2006.

<sup>10</sup> DHS Official Admits Taking Bribes to Fake Documents, *CNN.com*, December 1, 2006 (Exhibit 6); Markon, *The Washington Post*, Dec. 1, 2006.

<sup>11</sup> Markon, *The Washington Post*, Dec. 1, 2006.

<sup>12</sup> Pauline Arrillaga, How to Secure Homeland If Some Guarding Borders Have Turned?, *Associated Press*, September 23, 2006 (Exhibit 7); Markon, *The Washington Post*, Dec. 1, 2006.

<sup>13</sup> *The Press Trust of India*, Dec. 1, 2006.

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Senator Charles Grassley, Press Release, Grassley Demands Answers from CIS About Continued Internal Corruption, July 5, 2006, available at [http://grassley.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease\\_id=5120](http://grassley.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=5120). (Exhibit 8)