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**NOTARY PUBLIC CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL DECEPTIVE
BUSINESS PRACTICES**

El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez announced today the sentencing of a Socorro notary public accused of engaging in deceptive business practices.

Patricia Monroy, doing business as “M & N Business Management Services”, pled guilty on Friday, February 16, 2007 to one count of engaging in Deceptive Business Practices by offering to provide immigration services to consumers in violation of Texas law. The hearing took place this afternoon at the County Criminal Court at Law #2.

After receiving the guilty plea from Ms. Monroy, Judge Robert Anchondo sentenced her to 1 year probation and to serve 100 hours of community service. She was also ordered to pay \$5,449 restitution to the 4 victimized consumers. Additionally Judge Anchondo ordered Ms. Monroy to strictly comply with the terms of the settlement in a separate civil lawsuit filed against her by the Texas Attorney General’s Office for soliciting the preparation of immigration documents. The civil lawsuit identifies 16 other individuals whom were victimized by the defendant; the settlement orders her to make full restitution to all the victims.

County Attorney José R. Rodríguez expressed satisfaction about the sentence. “Ms. Monroy took money from hard working immigrants promising them to perform services that were never rendered. This case must serve as an example to other notary publics who might be tempted to take advantage of the good will of immigrant families. In Texas, it is illegal for notary publics to do any immigration work. Notaries are not lawyers, and they should not even offer to fill out of immigration forms. I am committed to prosecute violators to the fullest extent of the law.”

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