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November 29, 2005

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL ABBOTT SUES LAREDO WOMAN
FOR FRAUDULENT IMMIGRATION CONSULTING ACTIVITIES**

Lawsuit alleges Noemi Suarez duped consumers by providing unauthorized legal advice

LAREDO – Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott today announced he has sued a Laredo woman for defrauding consumers by advertising and providing unauthorized legal advice and other immigration services. The Attorney General's lawsuit seeks a temporary injunction against Noemi S. Suarez and her business, Suarez Business Management Services.

"There are rules that govern who may provide immigration services and when you break those rules my office will pursue you in court," Attorney General Abbott said. "I will not tolerate the exploitation of those who want to make Texas their home."

The Attorney General's lawsuit, filed in the 406th District Court in Webb County, alleges Suarez charged customers to determine their eligibility for immigration benefits and prepare immigration documents for them. Suarez advertised her fraudulent immigration services on business cards and on a sign in front of her business. In Texas, only licensed attorneys and nonprofit organizations accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice's Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) can charge fees to advise and represent clients in immigration matters. Suarez is not licensed to practice law in Texas.

The Attorney General is seeking an injunction to stop Suarez from advertising, charging for or providing the unauthorized services. If granted, the injunction will also prohibit her from using the word "immigration" in any advertisement, business card or other representation to the public. The Attorney General's lawsuit alleges violations of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act and seeks civil penalties of \$20,000 per violation, including a \$250,000 penalty for violations of the law against consumers who are 65 or older.

Since assuming office, Attorney General Abbott has shut down more than 30 businesses that were not authorized to provide legal advice regarding immigration matters. To file a complaint against Suarez, consumers can contact the Office of the Attorney General at (800) 252-8011 or visit the Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us. Assistance is available in Spanish and English.

LINKS:

- Lawsuit against Suarez:

http://www.oag.state.tx.us/newspubs/releases/2005/112905suarez_lawsuit.pdf

- Photograph of storefront:

<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/newspubs/releases/2005/112905suarez.jpg>

- Sample of business card:

http://www.oag.state.tx.us/newspubs/releases/2005/112905suarez_card.jpg