

# *Atlanta Business Chronicle*

## **Alpharetta immigration atty. indicted**

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

An Alpharetta, Ga., immigration lawyer was indicted by a federal grand jury Tuesday and charged with filing false visa applications and alien harboring.

**Parmesh N. Dixit**, 40, was released on \$50,000 secured bond and ordered to surrender his United States and United Kingdom passports.

According to the case, from July 2005 through July 2008, Dixit allegedly conspired with others to get visas for his clients by submitting fraudulent applications to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Dixit allegedly filed applications for citizenship containing false information, altering the facts so that aliens who were not eligible for work visas would appear eligible.

Dixit told clients he could obtain "green cards" or resident alien status for them through lawful visa programs. But because Dixit's clients did not qualify for these programs, Dixit submitted fraudulent information on his clients' applications, including the applicant's prior employment, biographic data, and the jobs purportedly available for the alien in the United States.

Dixit also allegedly charged his clients higher than normal fees as he claimed he could obtain visas for the illegal alien clients.

The indictment charges 28 counts of visa fraud, 42 counts of alien harboring for the purpose of private financial gain and one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud. Each charge of visa fraud carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Each charge of alien harboring carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. The conspiracy count carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.