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## Mace General Counsel Sentenced to Year of Probation

Amy Miller

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The general counsel of [Mace Security International](#) Inc. will serve one year of probation and spend six months in home confinement for his role in a scheme to employ illegal Mexican workers at the company's car washes.

Robert Kramer, 56, had pleaded guilty in June to federal misdemeanor charges of employing at least 50 illegal immigrants, with the knowledge that they weren't eligible to work in the U.S.

His sentence, handed down on Tuesday, includes a \$75,000 fine, and he will have to speak to law students about professional and corporate responsibility. He faced a maximum of six months in prison and a \$150,000 fine.

Kramer is still employed by Horsham, Penn.-based Mace, which is best known for its pepper spray and other personal defense products.

"The company supports Mr. Kramer's decision to conclude the unfortunate episode by the guilty plea," a Mace spokesman said in a statement. "We feel fortunate that the case is behind us."

Mace had been the target of [a federal investigation into the hiring](#) of undocumented workers. Former car wash regional manager Nicholas Sama was also sentenced on Sept. 10 to five years' probation, with nine months of home confinement.

Kramer isn't just Mace's general counsel. He's also chief operating officer of Car Care Inc., a subsidiary of Mace Security. And [according to federal prosecutors](#), managers hired undocumented workers at Car Care locations that Kramer supervised, and paid them using the names of former employees.

Local banks were given a list of employees authorized to cash paychecks without showing identification, if they wore T-shirts or sweatshirts with the Car Care logo. Termination papers also weren't filed when illegal workers quit so the names of former employees could be given to new illegal workers to keep the scheme going.

Kramer did not admit that he knew about the scheme, but he did admit that he should have known about it. "The charge and plea of Mr. Kramer was based on his failure to discover the conspiracy orchestrated by the regional manager, and managers of the four car washes," according to the company's statement.

Kramer could be disciplined as a lawyer because the federal Clerk of Courts will report the guilty plea to the disciplinary board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.