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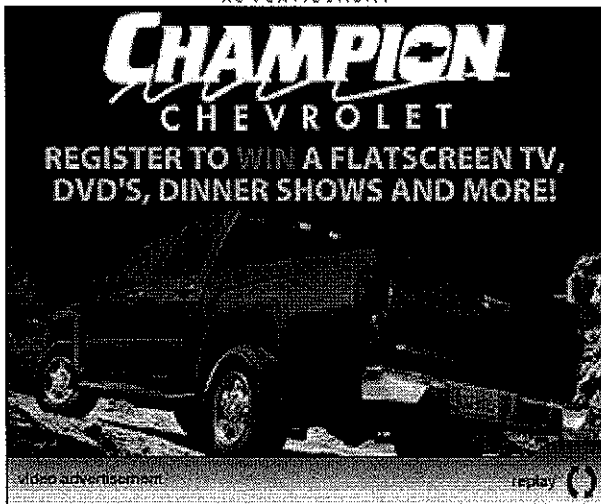
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Reno McDonald's executives sentenced in illegal immigrant scheme

BY FRANK X. MULLEN JR. • FMULLEN@RGJ.COM • NOVEMBER 20, 2008

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One current and one former top executive for the firm that owns 11 McDonald's restaurants in and around Reno have been sentenced to three years of probation in a case involving the systematic employment of illegal immigrant workers for more than a decade.



Documents based on an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents show that executives of Mack Associates had a "scheme" they called "good papers" in which the company knowingly hired illegal immigrant workers and in some cases provided them with false identities.

Sometimes, the fake identities were of living or dead acquaintances of the firm's workers, the documents show.

U.S. District Court Judge James Mahan last week sentenced Jimmy Moore, 47, the franchisee's former vice president, to three years of probation and 40 hours of community service after he pleaded guilty to one felony count of inducing an

illegal immigrant to remain in the United States.

Mahan sentenced Joe Gillespie, 53, of Sparks, director of operations for Mack Associates Inc., to three years



Luther Mack

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of probation after he pleaded guilty to one felony count of aiding and abetting an alien to remain in the United States.

Previously, two key employees were sentenced to 90 hours of community service and fined \$1,000 in the case. Anntoinette Richmond, 44, the corporation's controller, and Teresa Theiss, 36, a former payroll clerk for the firm, pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of continuing employment of an unauthorized alien.

The sentences were part of a plea agreement under which Mack Associates paid \$1 million and was placed on probation for one year.

Luther Mack, owner of Mack Associates, was not charged. At the time of the raids, Mack said he followed immigration laws when hiring workers. Shortly after that, he declined to comment on the advice of his lawyer.

Mack did not return calls from the newspaper Wednesday.

The plea agreements and documents filed in the case show the firm engaged in a system of hiring illegal immigrants and supplying them with false identities in an effort to retain long-term employees, especially restaurant managers.

Inside the firm, the scheme was known as "good papers," court documents said.

The case came to light in September 2007 when ICE agents executed federal search warrants at the 11 McDonald's restaurants and arrested 58 illegal immigrants working at the sites.

At least 30 have been deported. Others await deportation or remain in the country with documentation, ICE officials said.

Nevada U.S. Attorney Gregory Brower and Julie L. Myers, Department of Homeland Security assistant secretary for ICE, have said the Mack case should serve as a reminder to employers that knowingly hiring illegal immigrants violates federal law, violations will be prosecuted and criminal penalties can be significant.

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KnitWit wrote:

Replying to seriously78:

Luther Mack is crooked POS. I have had to deal with him in the past and he thinks that because he is Luther Mack, that he is someone important. He is a rude pompus jackass. I was hoping that he would get what he deserves, but once again, our justice system has failed us. Luther Mack is a terrible person.

No kidding. He's got illegals working at his McDonalds' right now. What, does he think he's made of Crisco and the law can't touch him?

Anyone who knowingly hires illegals (and we know that's exactly what you did, Luther 'ol boy), should automatically be fined \$1,000,000 cash and lose their licenses to own

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businesses. Period. That'd be a deterrent.

11/26/2008 5:30:38 p.m.

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lilmax wrote:

Seems to me that justice has been served here... If you consider that, " Justice is for those that can afford it; the rest of us, have to settle for the law!" Anybody else without the money and influence of these three, would have been "slam dunked," in a heartbeat!

Let's all hope that they can continue to undermine the American workforce so they can keep shilling out the crap that McDonald's puts out now!!

11/26/2008 5:26:13 p.m.

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karlasweig



gayndah wrote:

Luther Mack clearly dodged the bullet here because of his political connections. As he eats his Thanksgiving turkey this year he should give thanks for having been able to con this community for so many years. Everyone gets what is due to them in the end and I think that his turn is closer than he may think.

11/26/2008 8:02:08 a.m.

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seriously78 wrote:

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11/25/2008 11:37:53 a.m.

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rick763889968 wrote:

o K, IT SEEMS TO OF BEEN PROVEN , to me anyway Mack was part of idenity theft. That can be proven it seems. If only the people who`s identities were stolen and used, proubly really hurting them in many ways ,could come forward and sue Mach. I do beleave they would win.They are all going to go through hell tring to strighten their lives back out and not just creat wise either. There are even some who may have criminal warrents out for them caused by ones using their identities and don`t even know it.With as much information the government has obtained haven`t these people been notified?Might this even fall under the R I C O act??? I don`t know. Just thinking off the top of my head. I never hear whats happening to these victims.

11/25/2008 1:57:30 a.m.

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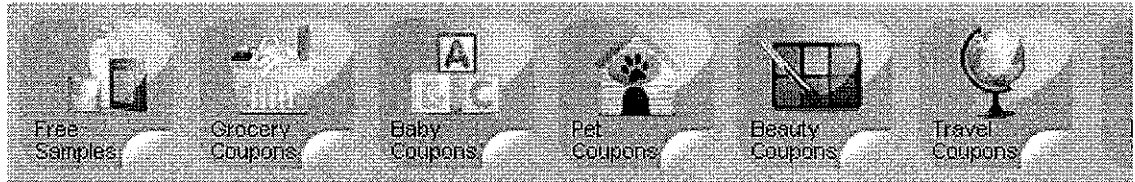
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