



U.S. Department of Justice

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For Information Contact Public Affairs**

Thursday, April 1, 2010

### **Judge Sentences 2 Former Delta Ticket Agents to 5 Months in Prison**

**St. Thomas, USVI** - District Court Chief Judge Curtis V. Gomez today sentenced two former Delta Airlines' employees to five months in prison and five months home confinement, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe, Resident Agent-in-Charge Dennis M. McGunagle, Jr., Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Resident Agent-in-Charge Hillary Hodge announced today.

Former Delta Airlines assistant supervisor Diana Telemaque, 33, and former Delta Airlines passenger services representative Felicia Browne, 22, were also sentenced to three years supervised release for conspiracy to smuggle aliens through the Cyril E. King Airport. Curbside baggage handler Daniel Confidente, 47, was sentenced to a term of five years probation. Each defendant was also ordered to forfeit \$16,000 to the United States.

In handing down the sentences, Chief Judge Gomez told the defendants that they were very lucky because they were convicted of very serious offenses. However, he said that he would follow the government's recommendation that the Court take into consideration their cooperation with the government and immediate acceptance of responsibility.

All three defendants were arrested on September 4, 2009 and charged in a six-count

indictment with conspiracy to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States and alien smuggling from about May 2008 through July 19, 2009. Each of the defendants pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to smuggle aliens into the United States.

According to court documents filed in this case, the defendants used their positions as ticket agents and baggage handler to sell passage on a commercial aircraft to illegal aliens, and to assist them in bypassing the Customs and Immigration checkpoint and board Delta Airlines flights to the United States.

Telemaque and Browne were ordered to surrender to the US Marshals Service on April 5, 2010.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys St. Clair Theodore and Everard E. Potter.