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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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**Notary Public Charged with Offering
Immigration Services that Were Never Rendered**

The El Paso County Attorney José Rodríguez has filed criminal charges against a Socorro notary public alleging she conducted deceptive business practices.

Patricia Puentes Monroy, owner of “M N Business Management” located at 1113 Horizon Blvd., is being charged with 3 counts of Deceptive Trade Practice, a Class ‘A’ misdemeanor, punishable by up to 1 year in jail and/or a \$4,000 dollar fine.

Honorable Judge Robert Anchondo has issued summons in each charge and set Puentes Monroy’s arraignment for August 10th, 2006 at 8:30 AM in the County Criminal Court at Law # 2

The criminal complaints filed allege that, on or about September 7, 2005, Puentes Monroy received more than \$2,000 to process the immigration applications for 3 residents of East El Paso, but the services were never provided.

El Paso County Attorney José Rodríguez says that unfortunately this type of crime occurs often in the borderland, and in many cases, it goes unreported because the victims are generally undocumented immigrants or residents of Mexico that don’t know the function of a notary public in the United States is very different from the function they have in Latin America countries.

“In Texas, public notaries are only authorized to witness the signing of legal documents; they do not necessarily have specialized legal training, and are not allowed to offer immigration services”, said County Attorney José Rodríguez.

We encourage anyone who might feel has been a victim of an unscrupulous notary public, to come forward and file a complaint at our office located at 500 E. San Antonio Suite 503, or for additional information to call the El Paso County Attorney's Office Deceptive Business Practices Unit at 546-2050.

Anyone who feels they have been the victim of the crime of "Deceptive Trade Practice" may file a police report by calling the El Paso Police Department at (915) 564-7000.

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For those interested members of the media, County Attorney José Rodríguez will be available for interviews today between 11 AM and 12 PM at his office downtown. Please confirm if you are interested in talking to him or call to make further arrangements. A mug shot will be sent later today.