

## **Florida Spa Owners Plead Guilty to Harboring Illegal Aliens**

Bruce Buchanan, Partner-in-Charge of Immigration Law Section

An Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigation reached a successful conclusion when Mal Suk Kim of Palm Beach County, pleaded guilty to harboring illegal aliens and money laundering.

Kim owned 50 percent of Coral Spa until February 2008, when she sold her 50 percent share of the business to Hannah Eun Sung Chong. Kim hired two undocumented aliens to work and live at Coral Spa, without having them complete any paperwork or job applications, and without regard to their immigration status. Customers paid Chong for the work performed by the illegal aliens at the Coral Spa, and Chong, in turn, paid a portion of those proceeds to defendant Kim. Kim knew that the money she was receiving was generated by the work of these illegal aliens.

Kim faces a statutory maximum term of 10 years in prison on the harboring count and up to 20 years in prison on the money laundering count. Kim also agreed to forfeit \$150,000 involved in the money laundering offense to which she pleaded guilty. Chong previously pleaded guilty to harboring illegal aliens and money laundering.