

Commonwealth of Virginia

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

4110 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, ROOM 114

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-4047

STEVE DESCANO
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

5/12/21

Contact: Ben Shnider, (571) 460-6711

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO STATEMENT ON ARREST OF JASMINE MOAWAD

Moawad is suspected of falsely representing herself as an attorney, specifically targeting members of the Latino community

(Fairfax County, VA) – Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano issued the following statement regarding the arrest of Jasmine Moawad:

"Earlier today Fairfax County Police arrested Jasmine Moawad. The arrest was based on probable cause that Ms. Moawad falsely represented herself as an attorney and charged clients for services not rendered. Ms. Moawad is suspected of specifically targeting members of the Latino community and seizing on the vulnerability of community members who may fear immigration consequences should they come forward.

Ms. Moawad has been charged with two counts of obtaining money or signature on false pretense, a class four felony. Each count comes with a potential sentence of 2 to 10 years and a fine of up to \$100,000. Ms. Moawad therefore faces a sentence of up to 20 years and a fine of up to \$200,000.

This is an ongoing investigation. I encourage anyone who may have more information about this matter to report it by calling 1-866-411-TIPS. I want to especially make clear to members of our community who feel they have been ignored by the justice system that we take crimes against them seriously. As part of that commitment, my office has instituted a "Community Trust Policy," whereby we do not cooperate with ICE on civil immigration enforcement – that means that those with relevant information need not fear immigration consequences should they come forward.

We in Fairfax County have no tolerance for individuals who prey on our immigrant neighbors. Immigrants make our community whole and my office will always do everything in our power to safeguard Fairfax County's immigrant communities."

NOTE: All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

###