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**COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES  
JASMINE MOAWAD, FRAUDULENT LAWYER, SENTENCED TO \$20K RESTITUTION AND JAILTIME**

Fairfax County, VA — Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that Jasmine Moawad, 49, was sentenced to 5 years for fraud, specifically posing as a lawyer to earn money from clients seeking legal services. Of the 5 years, 4 years and 6 months are suspended. Moawad was also ordered to pay \$19,450 in restitution to 7 victims she had defrauded.

Moawad pled guilty to obtaining money by false pretense, a Class 4 felony, on February 15, 2024. In October last year, 11 victims testified across a two-day restitution hearing.

Moawad, originally from Bolivia, is not a licensed attorney in Virginia or any other jurisdiction. Over a dozen victims were identified throughout the investigation, which began in 2021. Victims had sought Moawad's purported legal services for a variety of issues, including assistance with immigration visas and work permits, representation in civil matters, and real estate or rental deals. At Moawad's direction, some victims made payments to a campaign account, New Americanos for America, which was linked to a 2019 campaign for Virginia State Senate. Some victims also testified that when they asked Moawad to return their payments, after the promised work had not been completed, she refused and threatened immigration consequences.

"The defendant targeted vulnerable communities to make money and preyed on clients who couldn't verify documents because they did not speak English, or who were vulnerable to threats and intimidation because of their legal status," said CA Descano. "Our community is only as safe as our most vulnerable members – that's why my office is committed to keeping all of our community members safe, regardless of the language they speak or their legal status."

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