



Office of the Washington County Attorney

Kevin M. Magnuson, County Attorney

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 5, 2025

Three Charged in \$500K Immigration Fraud Scheme Targeting Spanish-Speaking Churchgoers

STILLWATER, MN — Three individuals have been charged in Washington County District Court for their roles in a large-scale fraud scheme that targeted Spanish-speaking immigrants in local church communities, Washington County Attorney Kevin M. Magnuson and Dakota County Attorney Kathryn M. Keena announced Wednesday.

Kira Milany Romero Pinto, Denis Rigoberto Aquino Martinez, and Luis Baltazar Leiva Aquino are accused of defrauding at least 25 victims—seven of whom are Washington County residents—of more than \$500,000. The known loss to Washington County victims exceeds \$118,000.

The defendants allegedly promised immigration legal services, employment, and expedited citizenship through a fictitious attorney named “Isabella Jason.” Victims were asked to pay thousands of dollars in cash and sign contracts for services that were never delivered. Most of the transactions occurred at a Lake Elmo residence shared by two of the defendants.

The charges allege that no such attorney exists and that no legal services were ever provided. Victims were recruited primarily from Spanish-language church services in Inver Grove Heights and Woodbury.

“This case is a disturbing example of individuals exploiting trust within immigrant communities,” said County Attorney Kevin M. Magnuson. “We are committed to holding accountable those who prey on vulnerable residents seeking help and stability.”

Charges filed include:

- Kira Milany Romero Pinto: 1 count of Racketeering; 11 counts of Felony Theft by Swindle
- Denis Rigoberto Aquino Martinez: 1 count of Felony Theft by Swindle; 2 counts of Aiding and Abetting Theft by Swindle
- Luis Baltazar Leiva Aquino: 2 counts of Aiding and Abetting Theft by Swindle

The case is being jointly prosecuted by the Washington County Attorney’s Office and the Dakota County Attorney’s Office. Charges were filed in Washington County, and court proceedings will be held there.

The investigation is being led by the Mendota Heights Police Department, with assistance from the Washington County Sheriff’s Office, Cottage Grove Police Department, Inver Grove Heights Police Department, Lakeville Police Department, and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.



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Assistant Washington County Attorneys Nick Hydukovich and Richard Podvin and Assistant Dakota County Attorneys Evan Frazier and Molly Doda are prosecuting the case.

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