

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
for the Fifth Circuit

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No. 93-1332  
Summary Calendar

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

VERSUS

TRINIDAD ALVARADO,

Defendant-Appellant.

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Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Northern District of Texas  
(1:92-CR-42-03)

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(February 28, 1994)

Before DAVIS, JONES, and DUHÉ, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:<sup>1</sup>

Trinidad Alvarado was convicted of fraud in connection with immigration documents and for aiding and abetting that crime. She appeals contending that the evidence was insufficient to prove that she knew that the statements contained in the immigration documents which she prepared and notarized were false. We affirm.

Viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the

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<sup>1</sup> Local Rule 47.5 provides: "The publication of opinions that have no precedential value and merely decide particular cases on the basis of well-settled principles of law imposes needless expense on the public and burdens on the legal profession." Pursuant to that Rule, the Court has determined that this opinion should not be published.

verdict,<sup>2</sup> we conclude that a rational jury could have found the essential elements of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt. Circumstantial evidence suffices.<sup>3</sup>

The false statements were contained in notarized letters submitted with immigration registration applications for two illiterate aliens. The letters misstated the aliens' employment history. The aliens were well-known to Appellant who, it is fair to infer from the evidence, was well-acquainted with their situation. She aided the aliens in the preparation of the documents. Statements in the documents were unquestionably false. Appellant also transported the two aliens (and others) to El Paso to deliver the application papers to authorities and to obtain the appropriate resident certifications. Additionally, there was substantial evidence from other workers of the submission of false documents by Alvarado of the same nature as the ones at issue here. It is a fair inference that Appellant either knew the documents were false, or deliberately conspired to remain ignorant of the true state of facts.

It is also reasonable to infer from the evidence that Appellant was motivated to make sure that the aliens qualified even if they were ineligible, and that, contrary to her training and better judgment, she accomplished her objectives, in part, by virtue of her reputation in these matters with Government

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<sup>2</sup> United States v. Sparks, 2 F.3d 574, 579 (5th Cir.), cert. denied (Jan. 10, 1994).

<sup>3</sup> United States v. Ledezma-Hernandez, 729 F.2d 310, 314 (5th Cir. 1984).

officials. All of this is strengthened by the fact that she concealed documents. Whether those documents were false or not, the simple act of concealment is corroborative of her guilty knowledge and intent.

AFFIRMED.