

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
May 22, 1999

...cal time at the airport," said Bell, who worked at Hartsfield for five years. "It is time for me to make a change. The national market is real busy right now."

Airport General Manager Ben DeCosta said he has launched a search for a replacement with both an engineering and executive background.

Bell's job "is a very key position at the airport, especially as we make the transition from the master plan to implementation," DeCosta said.

Bell will continue in a consulting role with the airport for the next two months. He was one of

the technical information in the master plan, and he said the job was essentially done.

In January, DeCosta appointed Mario Diaz, a former colleague at the New Jersey Port Authority, as chief deputy. Bell, operations director James Stogner and Richard White, who replaced Steve Baker as business director, were named assistant general managers. Diaz's salary is about \$120,000 annually and the other assistants' \$111,000.

Before Bell joined the city, he had served as a private consultant to the airport since 1980, when the current terminal complex was completed.

## Court limits INS ability to deport some felons

By Bill Rankin  
STAFF WRITER

In a ruling hailed by immigration attorneys, the federal appeals court in Atlanta has limited the Immigration and Naturalization Service's ability to deport aliens convicted of crimes before 1996.

In a unanimous ruling, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said some aliens have rights to appeal deportation orders through civil lawsuits known as habeas corpus petitions. The ruling affects a controversial immigration law enacted in 1996, which said aliens found to have committed an "aggravated felony" must be deported immediately without the opportunity to appeal.

The ruling, written by Judge Stanley Birch, was a victory for Tucker house painter Efrain Gutierrez-Martinez. The 42-year-old Colombian immigrated to the United States in 1986 and was convicted two years later of conspiring to possess and distribute cocaine. He sued the INS in 1997 after the agency moved to deport him.

In his decision, Birch said the Justice Department could not apply the law retroactively to aggravated felony convictions before 1996. Aggravated felonies cover a wide range of crimes, including shoplifting and drug

possession as well as serious violent offenses.

Gutierrez-Martinez now will get the chance to ask an immigration judge to weigh the severity of his 1988 conviction against the good things he has done during the past 11 years, said his lawyer, Charles Kuck.

"He's a good guy with a family who made one mistake," Kuck said. "At least he gets to ask a judge, 'Do I deserve a second chance?' There are no guarantees for him, but at least he has a chance."

Kuck estimated that there are thousands of people like Gutierrez-Martinez throughout the 11th Circuit, which has jurisdiction over Alabama, Florida and Georgia, facing similar deportation problems.

"This is definitely a step in the right direction," Atlanta immigration lawyer Socheat Chea said of the decision. "We're finally beginning to get due process for our clients."

Kuck said he found the 1996 law unfair because it has been applied to aliens who may have pleaded guilty to crimes now defined as "aggravated felonies" before 1996 without knowing that they could be deported for it.

Terry Bird, district counsel for the INS, said he had not yet read Thursday's ruling and declined comment.



130  
LIMITED\*

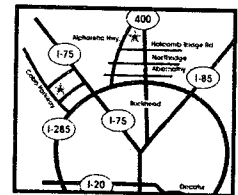


© 1999 Infiniti Division of Nissan North America, Inc. U.S.A. Bose® is a registered trademark of the Bose Corporation. \*Closed-end lease from an independent primary lender. Initial payment excludes tax, title, license, insurance and options. MSRP \$31,625 incl. dest. charge. / actual price set by dealer. Monthly payments total \$15,561.00. At lease end, purchase for \$16,445.00 plus \$150 purchase option fee (wear and tear and \$0.15/mile for mileage over 12,000/year. Lessee responsible for maintenance and repairs. Lessee acquires no ownership. Retailer for details. Offer ends 5/31/99.

Luxury cars. Luxury service.

OPEN: MON-FRI 9am-8pm • SAT until 7pm

  
**ROSWELL**  
INFINITI  
OF NORTH ATLANTA  
11405 Alpharetta Highway  
770-625-8500



YOUR AUTHORIZED INFINITI DEALER