

# e-News

Release

Nevada State Contractors Board

www.nscb.state.nv.us



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## Unlicensed Contractors Cited in Reno and Las Vegas Stings

**Cristobal Santana-Ortega, dba Cristobal's Painting**, was going door-to-door in Dayton, NV, soliciting homeowners for business. When he received a call from a NSCB investigator and got confused on directions three times, he was determined not to lose the job. He had a friend call to get the address right. After submitting a bid for \$1,700, the determined Santana-Ortega was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license* and *advertising without a license*.

**Randall M. Clark, dba Clarks Custom Concrete**, was advertising in a Carson City newspaper that he could do "quality concrete" After meeting a NSCB investigator, Clark submitted a \$2,900 bid and was quickly issued a criminal citation for *contracting* and *advertising without a license*. The NSCB investigator gave Clark a contractor's license application and told him how to apply for a license.

**Joseph L. Gauntt** of Reno was advertising on a local bulletin board to be "Reno's Top Handyman." He listed his skills in BobCat servicing; bath, kitchen and whole-house remodeling; tile, granite, stone and drywall work; as well as carpentry, plumbing, electrical, painting, etc. After submitting a \$215 bid for electrical work to a NSCB investigator, Gauntt was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

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**Jason Cerasoli** advertised on Craigslist that he could do both handyman and flooring installations. He proudly showed a NSCB investigator both the before-and-after photos of hardwood and carpet floors he had done. Cerasoli was then issued a criminal citation for *advertising without a license*.

**Hawkeye Puck, dba Krystal Key Services**, displayed his business card on a local paint store bulletin board. He advertised that he did both exterior and interior painting, tile work and remodeling. A NSCB investigator discovered that Puck had a prior case for contracting without a license and that he had a bench warrant issued on his from the North Las Vegas Justice Court. The NSCB filed a new case on Puck with the Las Vegas District Attorney's Office for *advertising without a license*.

**Rudolf Vitousek, dba Handy Dudes LLC**, tacked up a very professional-looking flyer at a local Las Vegas paint store. It listed 12 different trades, two phone numbers, an e-mail address and a Nevada license number, which turned out to be his Nevada Secretary of State business license number. Unfortunately, Vitousek isn't a licensed Nevada contractor, and he was cited by a NSCB investigator for *advertising without a license*.

"These stings should serve as warnings that the NSCB is serious about cracking down on unlicensed contractors," said Margi Grein, Executive Officer for the Board. "Consumers should not be taken in by promises of cheap work performed by unlicensed contractors. In reality it may cost more, and the consumer is left with little or no protection.

"It is important for consumers to check the license status of any company they wish to hire at our website: [www.nscb.state.nv.us](http://www.nscb.state.nv.us) ," she added.

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Contracting without a license in Nevada is a misdemeanor for the first offense, a gross misdemeanor for the second offense and a Class E felony for the third offense. Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, and by law their contracts are null and void.

Consumers can check whether a contractor is licensed by calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada. License checks can also be conducted on the NSCB website at: **[www.nscb.state.nv.us](http://www.nscb.state.nv.us)**

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