



**UNQUALIFIED CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE**  
**October 13, 2015**  
**CASE OIG-I-2015-054**

As the result of an OIG investigation, on June 29, 2015, the United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut and the Attorney General for the State of Connecticut announced that Garg Consulting Services, Inc., entered into a civil settlement agreeing to pay \$390,000 to resolve allegations that the company failed to authenticate an employee's purported educational credentials and professional certification before hiring and assigning him to work on various U.S Department of Transportation-funded and state-funded highway projects, and on a bridge reconstruction project funded by Amtrak. The Garg employee, identified as Barry Kenneth Purnell, Jr. was hired as an engineer by the company after he applied for employment representing that he was a 2002 graduate of the University of Vermont with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering Management and that he had obtained an Engineer-in-Training certification. Garg did not make inquiries to authenticate his educational credentials or EIT certification, had they done so, the company would have learned that Purnell had not graduated from the University of Vermont or obtained the EIT certification. Purnell pleaded guilty to one count of Larceny-1<sup>st</sup> degree on February 26, 2015 and was sentenced in Hartford Superior Court on August 28, 2015 to 8 years suspended sentence, with 9 months incarceration to be served. In addition, a term of 5 years of probation was imposed. The OIG investigated this case with the U.S. Department of Transportation OIG.