



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

USCIS TODAY



A MESSAGE FROM USCIS DIRECTOR EMILIO T. GONZÁLEZ

USCIS is not only one of the most exciting places to work in federal government, but also one of the most challenging. With the national spotlight focused on immigration reform and the ongoing debate in Congress, our mission to “Secure America’s Promise,” has never been more on the minds of Americans than today.

We have a vested interest in this future policy, as does every American, and it will be up to USCIS to implement the final legislation approved by Congress. We’re up to this challenge, and we’re proactively taking steps today to make sure that we’ll have the personnel and procedures in place for the potential operational realities of a temporary worker program and expanded employment verification system.

Over the next 18-24 months, USCIS will be engaged in an extraordinary transformative process to fundamentally change the business, infrastructure and organization of the agency such that we deliver on the three strategic priorities of USCIS; National Security, Customer Service and Organizational Excellence.

Our aim is to deliver to the nation the world’s preeminent immigration benefits processing organization. Fresh tools will position us to enhance security and customer service in our existing mission, while confidently meeting the demands of new, imminent challenges brought on by the current push for immigration reform.

The USCIS Business System Transformation Initiative streamline outdated processes to make us leaner, faster and stronger. Moving from a form and paper-based system to an electronic, account-based, paperless platform not only will mean better service for more customers, but will also serve to enhance security, deter against immigration fraud, and improve our electronic interaction with other agencies.

Along with transforming our business processes, we are transforming the structure of our organization. Recently we created the National Security and Records Verification Directorate to sharpen our focus on fraud detection and background screening. We will continue to make additional organizational realignments and position our agency to more effectively deliver on our mission. To that end, we have created the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, which will have oversight of our financial and budget activities. As a fee-based organization that generates nearly \$2 billion per year, accountability for our financial performance and planning must be under one roof.

Since assuming responsibility over the largest immigration service in the world, I have vigorously pursued opportunities to transform the way we approach our job. I am anxious to launch new customer service and security initiatives, many of which will be developed and implemented within the coming fiscal year. Building upon this momentum, it is my intention to inspire USCIS to reach higher, go further and push harder. I am convinced that USCIS is better prepared to administer its responsibilities to provide the right immigration benefit, to the right person, in the right amount of time, today and into the future.

MAY 2006

“USCIS: Delivering on the Promise”

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USCIS: AMERICA’S IMMIGRATION SERVICE

REMINDER FOR HONDURANS AND NICARAGUANS ELIGIBLE FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

With less than one month remaining, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today issued a reminder to Hondurans and Nicaraguans eligible to file a re-registration application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) by the closing date of June 1, 2006. Failure to file a TPS re-registration application by June 1, will result in the withdrawal of TPS benefits, including employment authorization and protection from removal from the United States. There are approximately 75,000 nationals of Honduras and 4,000 nationals of Nicaragua (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Honduras or Nicaragua respectively) who may be eligible for re-registration. To date, approximately 7,500 eligible TPS beneficiaries have re-registered.

The extension of TPS for nationals of Honduras and Nicaragua is effective July 5, 2006, and will remain in effect until July 5, 2007. Nationals of Honduras and Nicaragua who have been granted TPS previously must re-register for the 12-month extension during the 60-day re-registration period, which began April 1, 2006 and will remain in effect until June 1, 2006. Please see the [Nicaragua](#) and [Honduras TPS Factsheets](#) for important information regarding fees and locations to submit applications.

To re-register for TPS under the extension, a TPS beneficiary must submit Form I-821 (Application for Temporary Protected Status) without the filing fee, Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization), and a \$70 biometrics services fee for each applicant age 14 and older. Both the Form I-765 and I-821 must be submitted for re-registration. If the applicant is only seeking to re-register for TPS and not seeking an extension of employment authorization, there is no filing fee for the Form I-765. However, all applicants seeking an extension of employment authorization until July 5, 2007 must submit a \$180 filing fee with Form I-765. Applicants may request a fee waiver in accordance with the regulations. The biometric fees, however, cannot be waived. The \$70 biometric service fee must be submitted by all re-registrants age 14 and older, as well as re-registrants under age 14 who are requesting an EAD. Failure to submit the required filing fees will result in the rejection of the re-registration application.

More information can be obtained from the USCIS National Customer Service Center toll-free number: 1-800-375-5283. TPS forms are available from the toll-free USCIS Forms line, 1-800-870-3676, or at www.uscis.gov.

USCIS DEDICATES OFFICES IN LINCOLN AND OMAHA

DIRECTOR GONZALEZ VISITS DES MOINES

USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez was on hand to dedicate the new Nebraska Service Center in Lincoln (Below) and Omaha District Office (Left). He also stopped by the Des Moines Sub-Office to meet with U.S. Senator Charles Grassley and employees (Below Left).



USCIS: PROMOTING OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

USCIS CHICAGO EMPLOYEES BRING CITIZENSHIP CLASSES TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

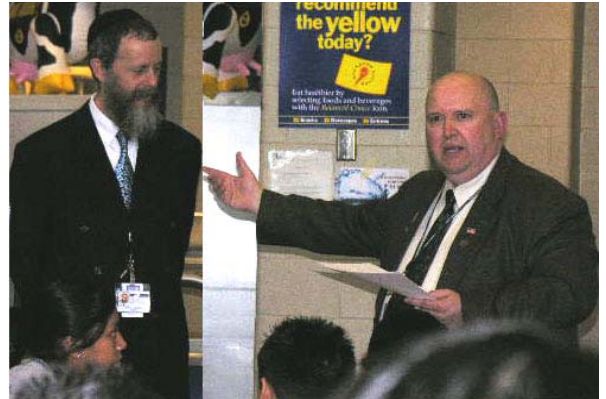
Recently, Daniel Kazmierski and Philip Marcucci, District Adjudications Officers from the USCIS Chicago District Office visited Orozco Academy, a local middle school on Chicago's west side, to conduct a class on U.S. Citizenship, history and civics. This is part of an ongoing partnership the Chicago USCIS office has with local schools.

They addressed two eighth grade classes with approximately 115 students in each session, explaining the background of USCIS the requirements for citizenship, including good moral character and crimes that make a person inadmissible for citizenship. The officers engaged the eighth graders by asking them for a show of hands of those that are U.S. citizens, as well as a show of hands of those born outside the United States. Many Orozco students were born in Mexico. Later, Kazmierski and Marcucci conducted a mock citizenship interview so the students could understand what takes place during the interview process.

The discussion became lively when the USCIS officers pulled out the citizenship flash cards. This very handy and instructional tool was used by the officers to quiz the students on their knowledge of U.S. history and civics. The students eagerly raised their hands to answer the questions posed before them, proving they had studied their U.S. history.

On April 17, USCIS conducted a naturalization ceremony in the Orozco Academy gymnasium, giving the students an opportunity to see people from all around the globe take the Oath of Allegiance and become U.S. citizens. The Orozco student choir and color guard participated in the ceremony and the keynote speaker for the event was Erika Maldonado, a reporter for the local Univision affiliate, who also became a naturalized citizen on that day.

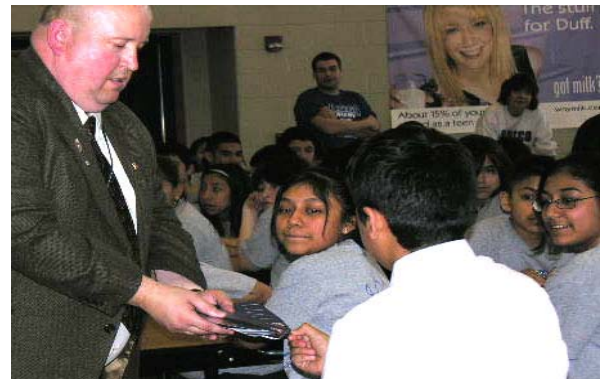
The Chicago office continues to reach out to local schools to conduct citizenship ceremonies and spend time teaching the students in various communities. As for the officers conducting the classes, they just love it. "I volunteer every time", says Officer Kazmierski. "I love to be out in the community meeting with people and teaching them about what I do."



Philip Marcucci (L) and Daniel Kazmierski (R), District Adjudications Officers from the USCIS Chicago District Office speak to students from Orozco Academy in Chicago



Students participated in a mock Citizenship Interview and answered Civics Exam Questions



DON'T WAIT IN LINE...GO ONLINE!!!

USCIS.gov features an evolving suite of Internet based services that decrease waiting times for customers. The [INFOPASS](#) Online appointment system, our 24-hour [National Customer Service Call Center](#), the ability to file and check the status of applications online using our [E-Filing Online Application Center](#), and other electronic media have improved our ability to both tackle the existing backlog of cases, while handling an increasing number of applicants.

OUTSTANDING AMERICANS BY CHOICE

CONGRESSWOMAN ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (R-FL)

MIAMI POLICE CHIEF JOHN TIMONEY

The newly launched *Outstanding American by Choice* initiative recognizes the outstanding achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens. Through civic participation, professional achievement, and responsible citizenship, recipients of this honor have demonstrated their commitment to their country and to the common civic values that unite us as Americans. Throughout the year, USCIS Director González will continue to recognize naturalized citizens who have made significant contributions to both their communities and adopted country.

A childhood refugee from Castro's communist regime, **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** emerged as a powerful voice in her South Florida community and a major critic of the tyrannical regime. Her historic 1989 election to the House of Representatives made her the first Hispanic woman and the first Cuban-American elected to the US Congress.

Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen personifies the American Dream of success. From 1982 to 1986, she was elected as a Republican member of the Florida House of Representatives (its first Hispanic woman) and, from 1986 to 1989, served in the Florida Senate. The Congresswoman is widely regarded as an international defender of human rights and democracy. She has played a key role in the passage of the Cuban Democracy Act and the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (the Helms-Burton Law).

Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen has also been active on the domestic front primarily on issues concerning education, children, senior citizens, women and their health, victims' rights, the environment, among numerous others. She led efforts in Congress and supported an executive order from President Clinton requiring federal buildings to exhibit pictures of missing children. Along with her husband Dexter, she's the architect of the successful Victim's Rights Amendment for Florida and has proposed a Constitutional amendment to protect the rights of those who have been victims of violent crimes nationwide. As a former Florida certified teacher, Ros-Lehtinen has been a strong supporter of educational reform. While in the Florida Senate, she was instrumental in passing the Florida Pre-Paid College Tuition Program. She continues to speak about the importance of this program to South Florida schools and students.

A native of Ireland, **John Timoney** came to the U.S. at age 13 from Dublin and has dedicated his life to police work. John Timoney was appointed Chief of Police of the Miami Police Department on January 2, 2003, prior to that, he served four years as the Police Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department. During Chief Timoney's first year as Miami Police Chief, he strengthened the Department's sense of integrity, revised procedures for greater accountability, implemented one of the most progressive policies in the country on the use of deadly force by police officers, and reduced the number of police shootings of civilians. It is noteworthy to mention that during 2003, not a single shot was fired at a civilian by a member of the Miami Police Department.

Chief Timoney's distinguished law enforcement career began in 1967 when he joined the ranks of the New York City Police Department. He is the recipient of over 65 Department Medals, including the prestigious Medal of Valor. He was the youngest person in New York City history to hold the "four star" position of Chief of Department and was appointed First Deputy Commissioner on January 13, 1995, the second highest rank in the New York City Police Department. Timoney is a vocal proponent for greater formal education of police officers and democratic policing throughout the world. Among the nation's highest authorities on Terrorism, Timoney earned a bachelor's degree from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a master's degree in American history from Fordham University, a master's degree in urban planning from Hunter College, and is a graduate of the Police Management Institute at Columbia University.



Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen and Chief John Timoney receive the Outstanding American by Choice Certificate from Director Gonzalez



FACES OF AMERICA

NEW CITIZENS...UNIQUE STORIES

JOHN GALL – UNITED KINGDOM



John Gall, 30, and John Gavin, 3 take in soccer game.

[SHARE YOUR STORY:CONTACT USCIS](#)

In addition to soccer, Gall graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Health, Physical Education and Safety, and received his teaching certificate. But his degree wasn't the only thing that Gall left school with, he also met his wife, Adrienne, of Claremore, Oklahoma who attended Oklahoma City and was the captain of the women's soccer team. John and Adrienne now live in Flower Mound, TX, where John is the men's head coach for the Edward Marcus High School Soccer Team. Under his direction since 2001, the team has a 90-30-12 record and has seen post season play every season.

John and Adrienne are also parents to a three-year-old son, John Gavin, and they recently celebrated John's Naturalization as a United States Citizen. "My goals are to provide my family with what it needs to be happy and successful, and my Citizenship means very much to me as I feel it's important that my son knows his father is a US citizen," Gall stated. "USCIS provided me with all the guidance I needed to complete my naturalization process, which I am grateful for."



“How Do I...?”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
AT USCIS

HOW DO I...KNOW WHAT USCIS SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO ME AFTER I FILE MY APPLICATION OR PETITION?

USCIS offers case services to customers at several stages throughout the application process. To learn more about what services are available while your case is pending or if your case has already been approved or denied, visit the [“How Do I...?” Section](#) of USCIS.gov.

The [“How Do I...?” Section](#) contains answers to frequently asked questions from USCIS customers, including important up-to-date information on new USCIS policy. Answers are available in both English and [Spanish](#).

USCIS: IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE

NEWS YOU CAN USE...

FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

[Public Notice: USCIS Closes Katrina Post Office Box at Texas Service Center, 4/28/06](#)

USCIS announced that it is closing the Katrina Post Office Box at the Texas Service Center. Foreign students requesting employment authorization should follow the instructions for filing I-765 applications on the USCIS website (<http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/i-765.htm>).



[Public Notice: USCIS Notifies Employers of Filing Changes, 4/27/06](#)

Due to an unusually large volume of receipts at the Service Centers during the first week of April, it is taking longer than expected for USCIS to enter cases into the system. Depending on the type of case and service requested, it may take nearly two weeks to generate and mail receipt notices.

[USCIS Formally Establishes National Security and Records Verification Directorate, 4/10/06](#)

Sharpening the focus on national security priorities, USCIS Director Emilio T. Gonzalez has established a new operational Directorate, National Security and Records Verification. This new Directorate is made up of two divisions formerly embedded within the Domestic Operations Directorate, Fraud Detection and National Security (FDNS) Division and the Records Division plus a new Verifications Division.

[USCIS Warns of Potential for Immigration Fraud, 4/7/06](#)

Although Congress has been debating immigration legislation, all customers should be advised that currently no temporary worker program exists for aliens unlawfully present in the United States. Congress has not passed any legislation that would create a temporary worker program. This release is also available in [Spanish](#).

[USCIS Reaches H-2B Cap for Second Half of Fiscal Year 2006, 4/6/06](#)

USCIS announced that it has received a sufficient number of petitions to reach the congressionally mandated H-2B cap for the final six months of Fiscal Year 2006.

[USCIS Warns of Spoof H-1B Release, 4/3/06](#)

USCIS became aware today of the circulation of a bogus release indicating that USCIS has received enough petitions to meet the Congressionally mandated H-1B cap for FY 2007. **This release is not accurate and was not issued by USCIS.** The current count on all nonimmigrant caps can always be found on the USCIS website at: <http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/services/tempbenefits/cap.html>

FACT SHEET ON IMMIGRATION SECURITY CHECKS

All applicants for a U.S. immigration benefit are subject to criminal and national security background checks to ensure they are eligible for that benefit. USCIS performs checks on every applicant, regardless of ethnicity, national origin or religion. These security checks have yielded information about applicants involved in violent crimes, sex crimes, crimes against children, drug trafficking and individuals with known links to terrorism. USCIS will never grant an immigration service or benefit before the required security checks are completed regardless of how long those checks take.

Most cases proceed forward without incident. However, due to both the sheer volume of security checks USCIS conducts, and the need to ensure that each applicant is thoroughly screened, some delays on individual applications are inevitable. Background checks may still be considered pending when either the FBI or relevant agency has not provided the final response to the background check or when the FBI or agency has provided a response, but the response requires further investigation or review by the agency or USCIS. Resolving pending cases is time-consuming and labor-intensive; some cases legitimately take months or even several years to resolve.

For more information please see the [USCIS Fact Sheet](#) on the criminal and national security background check system.

REAL PEOPLE, REAL PROGRESS

USCIS RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

Born in Panama and a now a Naturalized U.S. Citizen, Nicole Antoine's career in federal service started in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1991, she accepted a position with legacy INS at the San Francisco International Airport as an inspector.

Exemplary service earned her a promotion and after only a few years with INS she became an Information Officer and then a District Adjudications Officer (DAO) at the San Francisco District Office.

With her military husband headed for an upcoming retirement, Antoine applied for, and was selected to fill an adjudications officer opening at the Anchorage District Office, the state where they'd first met back in 1985. Knowing they'd both like to retire there, Antoine had been watching for postings – a rare phenomenon in an office with just two full-time DAO's. She moved there in August 2003.

Coincidentally, Antoine's supervisor is Terry Charbonneau, the same individual who naturalized her before she started working at INS.

Which of your contributions to USCIS are you most proud of?

"I'm proud of having served as acting Supervisor in San Francisco. I was my supervisor Richard Valeika's right-hand person, and he made me feel you can do anything you want to do. I trained the new people. It was exciting breaking marriage fraud cases, both in the San Francisco office and here in Anchorage. At a military naturalization ceremony up here, one soldier told me, 'you are the face of immigration!' It brought tears to my eyes – I'd never been told that before."

What's the most memorable moment you've experienced at USCIS?

"For our monthly administrative oath ceremonies, I'm the mistress of ceremonies. If we have military members naturalizing, and they're going to be deployed, I tell the judge. Usually he'll announce it and they stand up to be recognized. Then, when I lead the oath of allegiance, afterwards I'll say 'Hooah!' The military members will always repeat that in a loud voice and start laughing. That's my trademark."

How has USCIS changed since March 2003?

"We still have a good rapport with Deportation and Investigations, so I don't see any difference in that respect. I don't see much difference at all. Alaska is unique. Because people are so far away and are so hungry for information, they need a little help from us. I see that more here than anywhere else I've worked. This is definitely a great office. We help the military 'above and beyond.' Guys who are leaving on deployment to Iraq, we naturalize right away. One of the most important things is that here you do all kinds of work. Also, our District Director, Bernadette Doody, is very big on customer service – making sure that the people have the right information, and we're always courteous."



Name: Nicole Antoine
Position: District Adjudications Officer
Location: Anchorage, AK Office

District Adjudications Officers determine eligibility for a wide variety of benefits, review applications and often conduct applicant interviews. Adjudications Officers have the dual responsibility of providing courteous service to the public while being alert to the possibility of fraud.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK AT USCIS?

Visit [USAJOBS Online](#) for more information on openings and opportunities at USCIS and other federal agencies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT USCIS OCOMM 202.272.1200