



Media Advisory

Dec. 16, 2008

Walter E. Washington Convention Center to Host Largest-Ever Naturalization Ceremony Sponsored by U.S. District Court in Washington *Seven Hundred Candidates to Take Oath of Allegiance*

WASHINGTON—Approximately 700 men and women from 104 countries will become U.S. citizens tomorrow at a special naturalization ceremony at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The ceremony marks the largest naturalization ceremony ever held by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Gordon Peterson, WJLA-TV anchor, will deliver the keynote address.

The Honorable Royce C. Lamberth, Chief Judge of the United States District Court, will administer the [Oath of Allegiance](#) to the new citizens. Rendell Jones, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), will deliver congratulatory remarks. Washington, D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton have been invited to attend the ceremony and also deliver remarks.

The ceremony is sponsored by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

USCIS completed more than 1.17 million naturalization applications during FY2008, resulting in more than one million new citizens taking the *Oath of Allegiance* the same year.

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008, 11 a.m.

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center
801 Mount Vernon Place, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Contact: Bill Wright, USCIS, (202) 272-1299; cell (202) 412-5047
Chinyere Hubbard, Director, Public Relations and Marketing, Walter E. Washington
Convention Center,
(202) 439-5133

NOTE: Media are requested to use the 9th Street and Mount Vernon Place entrance and set up not later than 10:45 a.m., as the ceremony will begin promptly at 11 a.m.