



Press Release

January 5, 2006

USCIS INTRODUCES NEW DIRECTOR

Washington, D.C. – Last night (on January 4, 2006) Department of Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Michael Jackson swore in Dr. Emilio Gonzalez as the new Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Nominated for the position in September 2005, Dr. Gonzalez appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on October 18, 2005, and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 23, 2005.

“It is an honor and privilege to have been selected by President Bush to lead the USCIS team,” said Director Gonzalez. “The outstanding work of my predecessor, and the countless contributions of dedicated employees have established a strong foundation and institutional framework at USCIS. Building on these achievements, the USCIS leadership team will use our current momentum to carry us forward and improve upon what we have already accomplished to enhance national security, ensure quality customer service and reduce case backlogs.”

Dr. Gonzalez will immediately begin his tenure as USCIS Director, an Undersecretary rank position within the Department of Homeland Security. Dr. Gonzalez brings a passion for immigration work and a wealth of policy experience with him to his new position. As a Cuban immigrant and naturalized American, he also shares a special connection with the American immigrant population.

– USCIS –

On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing our nation's security.