**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

June 23, 2004

Advisory

USCIS DIRECTOR AGUIRRE TO SPEAK AT ST. LOUIS NATURALIZATION CEREMONY
77 New Americans from 34 Nations To Be Sworn-in

Washington, D.C. - Eduardo Aguirre, Director, U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), will be the keynote speaker at a naturalization ceremony for 77 new Americans representing 34 nations, 1 p.m., Friday, July 2, 2004, at the St. Louis Old Historic Courthouse, 11 North Fourth Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The St. Louis naturalization ceremony is part of the USCIS' weeklong celebration of citizenship around the country, to honor the nation's 228th birthday on July 4th. This year's USCIS naturalization theme is "Citizenship: The American Dream in Action". Prior to the naturalization ceremony, Director Aguirre will hold media availability on immigration issues at the USCIS St. Louis Sub-Office, 11 a.m., Friday, July 2, 2004.

On March 1, 2003, USCIS became one of three legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service 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 the integrity of our nation's security. During the past year, USCIS has helped more than 640,000 men, women and children fulfill their dreams by becoming United States citizens, including more than 8,000 military service personnel.

Media Availability with USCIS Director Eduardo Aguirre

Date: 11:00 a.m., Friday, July 2, 2004, media availability. Press should arrive by 10:30 a.m. for security screening and processing.

Location: Robert A. Young Federal Building, 1222 Spruce Street, Room 1100, St. Louis, Missouri, 63103

Judicial Naturalization Ceremony

Date: 1:00 p.m., July 2, 2004. Press should arrive at 12:30 p.m. for security screening and processing

Location: St. Louis Historical Old Courthouse, 11 N. Fourth Street, St. Louis, Missouri

Contact: Dan Kane, (202) 353-8472 (Media ONLY)

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