



Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Friends:

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, let us pay tribute to the men and women whose hard work brought the bounty we find before us from farm to fork. This week, we honor the individuals, families, and communities who provide us the staple foods that sustain our Nation.

As always, please share with your networks!

Agency Updates

[Announcement by the Department of Homeland Security Regarding Case by Case Review Process and Prosecutorial Discretion](#)

November 17, 2011

The Department of Homeland Security announced that it will begin to review all deportation cases pending before federal immigration courts, following up on the August 18th case by case review memorandum issued by Secretary Napolitano. The Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review, which runs the immigration courts, issued a statement on this announcement, read [here](#).

[The Executive Office for Immigration Review Improves Asylum Clock Policies](#)

November 15, 2011

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) announced new guidance on the EOIR asylum clock for immigration judges, court administrators and immigration court staff. EOIR has issued Operating Policies and Procedures Memorandum 11-02: The Asylum Clock to provide uniform policies regarding the EOIR asylum clock for all immigration courts. The memorandum goes into effect on December 19, 2011. [Read the full statement here](#).

[A Commitment to Those Who Serve Everyday](#)

November 10, 2011

In observance of Veterans Day, USCIS held naturalization ceremonies around the country and even aboard an aircraft carrier for members of our Armed Forces. Because veterans play such an important role in our Department's mission, Secretary Napolitano set a goal to employ 50,000 veterans at DHS by the end of 2012. We are proud that today to have reached that goal, more than a year ahead of schedule. Read more about these and other efforts to honor our Veterans and Military, click [here](#).

Blog Highlights

[President Obama Holds Roundtable with Hispanic Reporters](#)

November 9, 2011

President Obama sat down with Hispanic Reporters from ImpreMedia, New America Media, ANSA Latina, the National Association of Hispanic Publications and Univision.com in the Roosevelt Room to discuss issues of importance to the Hispanic community and to all Americans, including the economy, support for small businesses, and the partnership this Administration has developed with our neighbors in Latin America. During this roundtable, the President also [spoke out strongly](#) on Alabama's immigration law HB56, calling it a "bad law" that fails to "match our core values as a country."

[Working Together On Immigrant Integration](#)

November 22, 2011

Last week, Cecilia Munoz, Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, traveled to Phoenix, Arizona to speak at the National League of Cities (NLC) Congress of Cities and Exposition. Cecilia addressed these matters through the lens of immigrant integration and spoke about the various immigrant integration initiatives underway by the Obama administration. To view Cecilia's presentation, click [here](#). To read her blog post click [here](#).

[Meeting with Southwest Border Officials at the White House](#)

November 16, 2011

Secretary Napolitano met with southwest border officials at the White House to discuss the current state of the Mexico-US border. Since 2009, DHS and partners across the federal government have deployed unprecedented levels of personnel, technology, and resources to the Southwest border. To read the full post, click [here](#).

[Communities Coming Together: Immigration and the Economy](#)

November 14, 2011

On Monday November 7, Alejandro Mayorkas, Director of the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services traveled to Nashville, TN to discuss the current state of our immigration system and its impact on the economy. Hosted by the Partnership for a New American Economy and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, the roundtable included business leaders and stakeholders from Gaylord Entertainment, Hospital Corporation of America, Business Forward, and the Nashville Chamber of Commerce. To read more, click [here](#).

[Passion for Justice Brings Michigan Students for a Dialogue at the White House](#)



Students gathered to hear from Felicia Escobar, Senior Policy Advisor at the White House Domestic Policy Council and Alexia Kelley, Deputy Director and Senior Policy Advisor at the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

November 16, 2011

Recently, we hosted a meeting with students from the University of Detroit Mercy, University of Michigan- Ann Arbor and Jesuit volunteers who traveled to Washington DC for the 14th Annual Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice (IFTJ) events sponsored by the Ignatian Solidarity Network. The students and JVC volunteers engaged in a lively conversation with the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships about the work of their office and its satellite centers across the federal government and the White House Domestic Policy Council on immigration policy issues. Read the full blog post [here](#).

This Week's Call

USCIS invites interested parties to participate in a stakeholder engagement on December 2, 2011 at 2:00PM (Eastern Time) regarding the unauthorized practice of immigration law and building the capacity of immigration service providers. The Office of Public Engagement, in collaboration with the Department of Justice, Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) will present an overview of the BIA accreditation and recognition process and address topics submitted by stakeholders.

To Attend the Session: Any interested parties may participate in this meeting in person or by telephone. Please contact the Office of Public Engagement, Intergovernmental Affairs Division at USCIS-IGAOutreach@dhs.gov by November 30, 2011 and reference the following in the subject line of your email:

- If you plan to attend in person, please reference "Capacity Building – In Person"
- If you plan to attend by phone, please reference "Capacity Building - Phone"

Please also include your full name and the organization you represent in the body of the email. In person seating for the event is limited to the first 30 people who register.

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