



CONSULATE NEWS

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Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans, As we approach the first anniversary of this publication our staff would like to thank nationals for their positive feedback and overwhelming support. Over the last year, this publication has provided an instrument for us to keep you clued-up regarding Consulate's activities and upcoming community events. It also established awareness of some developments taking place in Antigua and Barbuda, highlighted the accomplishments of some notable Diaspora nationals, and shared pertinent information on Immigration Matters. Indeed, your interest and unwavering support is partly responsible for this newsletter's success. Please continue to provide feedback and share your ideas with us as we strive to improve the quality of each issue.

The Consulate staff recognizes the value of our community and we remain committed to providing the best quality service to

those we serve at all times. We are also aware that there are many Antiguan and Barbudans who are equally committed to public service and have devoted their entire lives to making our country a better place for all citizens. Those individuals deserve praise and admiration for their selfless service to the country we all love. Service to one's country perhaps is the noblest of all professions. Reflecting on **altruism in service to country**, the late Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Charlesworth Samuel's life of public service exemplified its true meaning. His example is worthy of emulation and will encourage aspirants to serve their country, not as partisans seeking to advance selfish endeavors but to put Antigua and Barbuda first. Minister Samuel will be greatly missed. Antigua and Barbuda has lost a Giant public servant, politician and intellectual. I believe his legacy of humility, conviction and unconditional patriotism will continue to inspire this generation and future age bands.

Within the North American Diaspora there are many sons and daughters of Antigua and Barbuda who value community service. These unsung individuals provide community service through active involvement with community organizations. They too understand what it means to be servant leaders. They are bonds that hold our community together by keeping our culture alive. We at the New York Consulate know of their dedicated work and constant efforts to unite

THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE



our people and lend a helping hand to those in distress. Fellow Nationals in the spirit of those who have served and those who continue to give of themselves in public and community service I encourage you to get involved and become a member of one of our Antigua and Barbuda community organizations. This newsletter includes a directory of Antigua and Barbuda Community Organizations. Community volunteerism can be a rewarding experience and a valuable character-building investment. During the Easter celebrations let us reflect on the meaning of service and continue to support your community organizations!

Service Is By Damien Hess

Giving what you don't have to give.
Giving when you don't need to give.
Giving because you want to give.

McChesney G. Emanuel
Honorary Consul General

Consulate General Calendar of Events 2008

- May 3** Community Leaders Training/Development Seminar
Venue: TBD
- May** Town Hall Meeting
Venue: TBD
- June 19-20** Conference on the Caribbean – A 20/20 Vision
Venue: Brooklyn Marriot
- June 27-28** Antigua and Barbuda Professionals Conference
Venue: New York University (NYU)
- August 31** Launch Toy Drive
*Venue: 4th Annual Caribbean Splashdown & Health Fair
Marcus Garvey Park*
- September** Town Hall Meeting
Venue: TBD
- October 26** Independence Thanksgiving Service – *New York*
- November 2** Independence Thanksgiving Service – *Boston*
- 9** Independence Thanksgiving Service – *Philadelphia*
- 15** Annual Independence Gala

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA SAYS GOODBYE TO AN ELDER STATESMAN



Hon. Charlesworth T. Samuel

ST JOHN'S, Antigua - An estimated 3000 people gathered at the Antigua Recreation Grounds to honor the late Agriculture Minister Charlesworth Samuel on the morning of Tuesday February 19, 2008. A military parade in the capital, which included stops at Freedom Hall and the new United Progressive Party (UPP) secretariat, preceded the state funeral.

Among those paying last respects to the late minister were government ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, lawyers, teachers and students, members of the Christian community, relatives, friends, constituents and other well-wishers.

In paying tribute to his fallen colleague, Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer said that Samuel was noted for being a humble, selfless citizen.

“For a man who has touched so many lives throughout his three-score years and more – he was never boasting; always humble, always forgiving,” the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Spencer also remarked of Samuel's love for the land. He said, “His position as Minister of Agriculture was not just another job to him, it was his passion.”

“Brother Charlesworth was the model of a fine citizen. He was at ease in the corridors of parliamentary power and was equally at home among his own people fulfilling the obligations for which he was elected.”

Prime Minister Spencer added that he considered it his government's responsibility to ensure that the nation's young people knew what Samuel believed in and what he meant to the country.



The body entering Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG)
Photo by Gemma Hazelwood (Observer newspaper)

“It is therefore with a sense of pride that I announce here today that my government will establish the Charlesworth Samuel Scholarship Award which will give a deserving and qualified young Antiguan and Barbudan the opportunity to pursue undergraduate degree studies in Agricultural Science at the University of the West Indies. This is what Charlesworth would have wanted us to do,” he said.

In paying tribute to the late minister, the opposition also reflected on Samuel's career as a politician. Opposition Leader Steadroy Benjamin told the congregation that the late member of parliament was respected on both sides of the aisle and was admired for his high intellect, impeccable character, benevolence and untarnished integrity.

According to Benjamin, it was therefore fitting for government to honor Samuel in a tangible way.



PM Spencer paying tribute

Photo by Gemma Hazelwood (Observer newspaper)

“I have the treasured honor and singular privilege to recommend for the consideration of the cabinet that the Swetes Main Road located in the constituency of All Saints East and St Luke, the birthplace of the late distinguished son of the soil be renamed the Charlesworth T. Samuel Drive in his memory.”

In eulogizing his father, eldest son Clement made note of Samuel's reputation for commanding respect from all.



The Family

Photo by Gemma Hazelwood (Observer newspaper)

IN THE NEWS



Son, Clement Samuel

Photo by Joel Barnes (Photogenesis)

“As a parliamentarian, he earned a reputation for the ability to get along with others without compromising his principles of improving the quality of life for citizens and ensuring justice for all human beings that abide in our land,” he said.

He however noted that his father could not only be remembered for his academic or political achievements. “To do so would be to trivialize the significance and importance he had on the lives of many persons with whom he interacted,” he said.

Clement Samuel recounted that in his family, his father placed a high emphasis on prayer and devotion. He recounted that as a child, his father led family devotions on a daily basis. He also highlighted the fact that education was a priority in the family and his father made every effort to ensure that all of the children were equipped to lead successful careers.

Among those reflecting on Samuel’s contributions to the development of the twin isle state was Juno Samuel, Past President of the Antigua & Barbuda Union of Teachers, who said that the best tribute to the former Member of Parliament would be for young people to rise and take up leadership as teachers. “Who will provide Antigua & Barbuda with the spirit and essence of the most honorable Charlesworth Samuel? Who will catch the vision of this great thinker, educator, scientist, family man, politician and intellectual?” Juno Samuel asked.

Senator Gregory Walter, paid tribute on behalf of his father, former premier Sir George Walter. In his remarks, Walter described Hon. Charlesworth Samuel as “a noble statesman, who had an impeccable character and who held high principled standards of integrity, morality, uprightness, righteousness and honesty.”



Members of Government

Photo by Joel Barnes (Photogenesis)



Representatives of Regional and International Agricultural Organizations

Photo by Joel Barnes (Photogenesis)

Queen’s Counsel Gerald

Watt, who spoke on behalf of the Antigua & Barbuda Bar Association said, “The field of law is no doubt an adversarial one, yet Charlesworth Samuel was never adversarial, and while the politics is unfortunately antagonistic, crude and, in some instances dirty, Hon. Charlesworth Samuel never allowed himself to descend into the politics of abuse, slander and vitriol.”

UPP Chairman Leon Chaku Symister said of the man who was celebrated as multi-faceted, “We will remember him as one who was seemingly silent, but one

who was loud in his conviction and who, at times, seemed oblivious to what was happening, but when called upon to respond, would do so in a manner that was refreshing, invigorating and inspirational.”

Musical tributes were offered by the National Choir of Antigua & Barbuda; the United Wesleyan Chorale; Joyce DeCastro of Christ the King High School; Members of the All Saints East and St Luke Branch; the Antigua & Barbuda Men’s Chorus; the Melody Boys and an assembled choir of staffers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agro-Industries. Hon. Rupert Herbert,



Gerald Watt Q. C. escorted by Protocols Officer

Photo by Joel Barnes (Photogenesis)

IN THE NEWS

Minister of Health in St Kitts and Nevis and close friend of the deceased rendered a musical salute on the steel pan.

The service closed after a stirring sermon from the late minister's second son, Rev. Calvin Samuel who is currently a chaplain to the Farrington's School in the United Kingdom. In his sermon, Reverend Samuel urged the nation to follow his father's example: to be people of God first. This would ensure a lasting legacy. "My father worked to bring God to the heart of the governance of the country. It is my prayer that his legacy that resides in the abiding influence of a life well lived would be carried on," the younger Samuel said.



Son, Rev. Calvin Samuel
Photo by Joel Barnes (Photogenesis)



Hon. Rupert Herbert, St.Kitts-Nevis
Photo by Joel Barnes (Photogenesis)

"Let us honor Charlesworth Samuel's pursuit and priorities by determining that what we will be remembered for is not the quantity of things we have accomplished, but the quality of persons we have been," the late minister's son charged the congregation.

The body of the late Member of Parliament for All Saints East and St. Luke, Charlesworth Samuel was laid to rest in the churchyard at Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church after a brief private service. He was honored with a three gun salute. The interment ended a nearly three-week period of national mourning that was declared after the body of the late minister was found dashed against the rocks at Shell Beach on the island's north coast.

The national commemoration began on Monday, February 18, the 32nd anniversary of the day Minister Samuel was first elected to serve the All Saints East and St Luke's constituency – then St. Luke. The body lay in state that day, and members of the House of Representatives, in separate sessions, paid tribute to the elder statesman.



Service at Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church
Photo by Joel Barnes (Photogenesis)



VACANCY NOTICE

PARTICULARS OF THE POST OF DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF HIGH COURT, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Deputy Registrar of the High Court, Ministry of Justice and Public Safety. The details of the post are set out below:

Post: Deputy Registrar

Qualifications: Three (3) years experience in a Registry
Or
Five (5) years experience at the Bar

Salary: \$58,836.00

Travelling: \$6,348.00 per annum (provided the officer maintains a car for the performance of official duties)

Housing Allowance: \$14,400.00 per annum.

Telephone: Free telephone (limited to local calls)

**Payment in lieu of
Private Practice:** In accordance with legal experience

***The Officer selected will be required to contribute towards the Education Levy, Medical Benefits and Social Security Schemes. There will also be a deduction in the form of personal Income Tax. Employment will be subject to medical fitness.**

Vacation Leave: Twenty-seven (27) working days per annum, and in accordance with existing regulations.

Sick Leave: Thirty (30) calendar days during the period of twelve (12) months.

Duties:

- (a) Supervision of the Registry in the absence of the Registrar. Any other related duties assigned by the Registrar from time to time.
- (b) Processing of Probates, Letters of Administration, Small Estates, Unrepresented Estates.
- (c) Supervision of Births, Deaths and Marriages; including amendments, places of public worship, trade unions, newspapers, marriage officers, medical practitioners.
- (d) Assist the Registrar generally in managing the operations of the Division.

Gratuity: Twelve and a half percent (12.5%) of basic aggregate salary drawn during the period of employment.

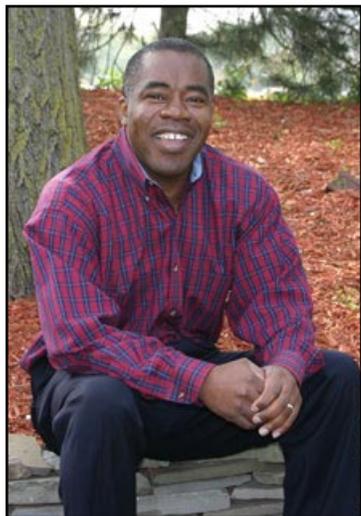
Hours of Work: (1) Mondays to Thursdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(2) Notwithstanding (1) above, the nature of the duties will require the Officer to perform work outside of the hours mentioned above, in addition to Sundays and Public holidays when necessary.

Applications stating qualifications, experience, the names and addresses of at least two references, along with copies of Certificates should be sent by 13th July, 2007 to:

**The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Justice and Public Safety
Government Office Complex
Parliament Drive
St. John's
ANTIGUA**

ANTIGUAN SON WINS PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER AWARD



C. Andy Howell

C. Andy Howell recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award from President George W. Bush. The award was presented by representatives from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation at a short ceremony in New Jersey. The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation Award was created by President Bush in 2003 to help recognize the contributions volunteers make in communities throughout the United States. Howell was selected for his extensive volunteer work in New Jersey, New York and Antigua with Sidewalk University.

Howell was born in Liberta Village, Antigua, West Indies on September 11, 1964 to Conrad Howell of English Harbour and Bernadine Joseph of Liberta. At age 9 Howell moved to Harlem New York with his family then on to Jersey City when he was 13. Howell attended Lincoln High School in Jersey City where he was an outstanding track and field athlete. After graduating in 1983, he went on to St. Peter's College where he earned a BS degree in Mathematics and Computer Science in 1987. While attending St. Peter's, Howell was elected President of the Black Action Committee and represented his class as Student Council Senator from 1984 - 1986.

Howell is currently a Senior Programmer Analyst for United Parcel Service (UPS). As an educator, author and businessman, his resolve and deep seated passion lies in the education of our youth. To promote education and scholarship in urban and underserved areas in the United States, Howell founded "Sidewalk University", a new concept for helping young people gain access to higher education. He is also the founder of RDS Investment Club, featured in the June 2000 issue of Black Enterprise Magazine, which teaches individuals how to invest in the stock market.

Andy Howell's numerous accomplishments include being named Grand Marshal of the 2002 Jersey City Caribbean American Carnival for his assistance with securing scholarships for post secondary students and his dedication to youth education. Howell was also declared an honorary citizen in 2002 by Mayor Glenn D. Cunningham for his contributions to the betterment of the cities of Jersey City and Saint John's, Antigua. In 2005 Howell coauthored the book Sidewalk University Economic Empowerment, a text which addresses financial illiteracy and the need to increase the numbers of college-bound youth. Howell was recognized in 2005 with the Jim Casey Community Service Award. Named for UPS founder Jim Casey this award is presented for outstanding volunteer work.

Howell serves on numerous boards including New York's Monroe College School of Information Technology, the Consortium for Pre-College Education in Greater Newark, New Jersey, Antigua and Barbuda Council of Organizations, Harlem and the Children's Village Board in Teaneck, New Jersey. Past volunteer affiliations include Dollars for Scholars of Northern New Jersey; Urban League of Hudson County, New Jersey; New Hope Baptist Church, Jersey City and the Vertiers Group in Brooklyn, New York.

On receiving one of the highest volunteer awards in the USA, Howell remarked that he has been celebrated many times throughout his career, however this award from the President was particularly important to him. "You begin volunteering to help other people and never think about getting awards. Receiving this recognition from the president really makes me feel good about what I do. Awards from the government always seemed like something that only businessmen were awarded - not real people helping other people," he commented.

Andy Howell is married to Lisa Susan Gaffin-Howell. The couple has three children, Gabrielle, Conrad and Danielle. They currently live in New Jersey. The Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda - NY congratulates Andy Howell on this most noteworthy and honorable accomplishment.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATIONS INC.

The Antigua and Barbuda Council of Organization (ABCO) is a non-profit organization, comprising of Antigua and Barbuda organizations within the Northeast USA.

MISSION

The mission of ABCO is to promote collaboration among Antiguan and Barbudan Organizations and other like minded groups, associations, partners and individuals and to act as a clearing house for the development of economical, spiritual, cultural, financial and social enhancement of member organizations.

HISTORY

This body was once known as the Council of Antigua and Barbuda Associations (CABA). The idea of establishing a council within the Antigua and Barbuda community was conceived by former Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda Dr. Patrick Lewis. Under the chairmanship of Ms. Juneth Webson, the council organized the first Caribbean Splashdown in 2005.

NAME CHANGE

In an effort to restructure the council, and embrace a wider scope of membership, the decision was taken by the respective community organizations to change the name of the organization to Antigua and Barbuda Council of Organizations (ABCO).

BOARD MEMBERS

On October, 19th 2007 an executive board was elected to serve ABCO for a period of one (1) year.

The board members are as follows:

Dr. Oswald Thomas - President

Mr. Andy Howell – Vice President for Education

Mr. Charles Jarvis - Vice President for Membership and Fundraising

Ms. Ophetta David – Secretary General

Mr. Foster John - Treasurer

Ms. Brenda Whyte – Public Relations Officer

Ms. Mona Wyre-Manigo – Board Member

Mr. Eustace Watson – Board Member

Mr. Shelly Hood- Board Member

OBJECTIVES (2007-2008)

- To create functional committees to help the organization achieve its overall mission.
- To increase financial literacy among the Antigua/Barbuda community through workshops.
- To develop a website to serve as a resource hub for all the organization's services, programs and activities.
- To recruit and increase the membership of the organization.
- To continue to promote cultural awareness through activities such as Caribbean Splashdown Music Festival and Health Fair.
- To assist community organizations and other like-minded groups in acquiring nonprofit status.
- To create greater public awareness of the organization, its functions and services.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership is open to all interested Antiguan and Barbudan Organizations within the USA. Annual membership fee is \$25 for any organization with operating budget under \$100,000.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Antigua And Barbuda Council Of Organizations Inc.

12 West 122nd Street, Suite 1

New York City, New York 10027

Phone (212) 252 - 4562

Email: ABCOINC@msn.com

Website: www.ABCOINC.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Organizations 2008 Calendar

Saturday April 4

Friends of Antigua Public Library- NY BOOK CLUB MEETING

Venue: Antigua House
12 West 122nd Street
(Btw Lennox & 5th Avenues)
New York, NY 10027

Selection: Prospero's Daughter by
Dr. Elizabeth Nunez
Contact: 646-823-3399

Friday April 11

Antigua and Barbuda Council of Organizations Inc. WEALTH AND FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP

Venue: Antigua House
12 W 122nd Street, New York, NY 10027
Time: 7pm
FREE ADMISSION
Contact: 212-252-4562

Saturday, April 26

Crossroad of All Saints Village Association FOURTH ANNUAL BLACK TIE AFFAIR

103 West 2nd Street, Mt. Vernon, NY
Contact: 917-458-0089 or 914 473-9808

Sunday, May 18

Crossroad of All Saints Village Association ANNIVERSARY GOSPEL CONCERT

Venue: Calvary United Methodist Church
1885 University Avenue
Bronx NY 10453
Contact: Call (917) 458-0089 or (914) 473-9808

Saturday May 31

Antigua and Barbuda Council of Organizations Inc. TASTE OF THE ROCK

Venue: Antigua House
12 W 122nd Street, New York, NY
(btw Lennox & 5th Avenues)
Time: 7pm
Contact: 212-252-4562

Saturday June 14

Antigua and Barbuda Cultural Society 20TH ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

Venue: Antun's
96-43 Springfield Blvd, Queens Village
Cost: \$90 per person
Contact: 646-823-3399

NOTICE



The Past Students - NY Chapter
of

Faith & Hope High School
holds its monthly general meetings
6:30pm

EVERY 2nd Saturday

at the

Antigua House
12 West 122nd Street
(Between Lennox & 5th Avenues)
New York, NY

For more information:

Please contact Genevieve at 646-286-2219

Come meet and greet
Old Friends at a
**Antigua Girls High School
Reunion Tea Party**
**SATURDAY 29TH
MARCH 2008
3-7PM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
GLORIA AIRALL-SIMON: 718 324-9306
SANDRA REID: 718 405-0098
\$10.00 DONATION

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(UNDERCROFT)
777 E. 222ND STREET
BRONX, NY 10467
(CORNER) BARNES AVENUE

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Foster John/President
Antigua and Barbuda Cultural Society
P.O. Box 788
Cambria Heights, NY 11411

Desmond Emanuel / President
Antigua and Barbuda Justice Movement
P.O. Box 931
Bronx NY 10455

Henrietta James / President
Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association
1942 Black Rock Avenue
Bronx NY 10472

George "Peter" Joseph/ President
**Antigua and Barbuda
United in Harmony Steel Orchestra**
759 South 6th Avenue
Mt Vernon NY 10550

Dr. Oswald Thomas / President
Antigua Progressive Society
12 W 122nd Street, Room 1A
New York, NY 10012

Diann Beazer Jeffers/President
Barbuda Civic Association
3091 Decatur Ave.
Bronx NY 10467

Eustace Watson Sr. / President
Children of Freetown, USA (COFA)
201-15 112th Avenue
St. Albans, NY 11412

Patrick Johnny Gomes / Director
City South Steel Orchestra
2030 Pitman Avenue
Bronx NY 10466

Charles Jarvis/President
Crossroad of All Saints Village Association
P.O. Box 740055
Bronx NY 10474
Website: www.coava.com

Bernard T. Harrigan / President
CTWEST Group
118-05 192nd Street
St. Albans, NY 11412

Wayne Warren /Chairman
Dem Boyz & Girlz of All Saints
P.O. Box 518
Bronx, NY 10475
Website: www.demboyzandgirlz.com

Beverly Benjamin George/President
Friends of the Antigua Public Library- NY, Inc.
P.O. Box 1926
New York, NY 10008
Website: www.foapl.org

Brenda Whyte / President
Parham & Pares of Antigua & Barbuda USA Inc.
240 East 175th Street # 307
Bronx NY 10457

The Jersey City St. John's Antigua
& Barbuda Sister City Support Committee
c/o Sidewalk University
P.O. Box 84
Paramus, NJ 07653-0084

Denley Burton/President
Swetes Reunion Committee
P.O. Box 550
Bronx NY 10456

Dion Irish/President
The Antigua and Barbuda Association of Greater Boston
34 Angell Street
Boston MA 02124

Loretta Ramsey/President
The Antigua & Barbuda Disaster & Relief Fund Inc.
2117-A Cheltenham Avenue
Elkins Park PA 19027

Shelly Hood / Chairman
Wadadli West USA, Inc.
12 West 122nd Street, Room 1A
New York, NY 10012

IMMIGRATION MATTERS - PART THREE

About Your Citizenship

Interview with H. Fitzmore Harris PC, Attorney-at-law

Q: Who is eligible to become a United States citizen?

A: There are generally two broad categories of individuals who are eligible to become citizens of the United States. Firstly, there are those who acquire citizenship based on their birth either within the United States or its outlying possessions; or based on their birth outside the geographical limits of the United States and its outlying possessions. That group of individuals can automatically acquire citizenship by operation of law. For those who are not able to acquire citizenship automatically by operation of law, the process by which they acquire United States citizenship is by naturalization.

Q: Who therefore, is eligible for naturalization?

A: The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) sets forth the requirements relating to eligibility for naturalization. Those requirements are covered by two separate sections of the INA. One section provides that no person can be naturalized as a citizen of the United States unless that individual is able to demonstrate an understanding of the English language, including an ability to read, write, and speak words in ordinary usage in the English language; and also demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of the history, and of the principles and form of government, of the United States. Physical or mentally disabled persons; as well as mentally impaired individuals are exempted from compliance with both the English literacy as well as with the history and civics requirements. Individuals over the age of fifty years of age at the time of the filing of their citizenship application are exempted from compliance with the English literacy requirements as long as they can prove that they have been living in the United States for a period of twenty years after they were admitted for permanent residence; and individuals over the age of fifty-five years are also exempted from compliance with the English literacy requirements as long as they can prove that they have been living in the United States for a period of fifteen years after they were admitted for permanent residence.

Those two sections which I have just described deals with what can be loosely termed academic requirements for naturalization. The other section of the INA which provides for naturalization eligibility covers the residency requirements, good moral character, attachment to the principles of the constitution and favorable disposition to the United States.

Thus, in its simplest terms, you are eligible to be naturalized as a citizen of the United States if you are:

- (1) Admitted as a lawful Permanent Resident of the United States;
- (2) You have continuously resided in the United States for at least five (5) years preceding the filing of the naturalization application;
- (3) You have been physically present in the United States for at least two and a half (2½) years;
- (4) You have resided within the State where the application is filed for at least three months;
- (5) You are able to read, write and speak ordinary English;
- (6) You have a knowledge and understanding of the United States' history and government;
- (7) You have demonstrated good moral character during the relevant five year period of continuous residence after admission to permanent resident status.

In addition there is a requirement that you reside continuously in the United States from the date of the application up to the time of admission to citizenship.

In order to become a naturalized citizen of the United States, eligible individuals have to file an N-400 application for naturalization. The application covers most of the initial legal eligibility requirements for naturalization, and if the applicant does not meet the initial burden of proving initial eligibility for naturalization, the application will be denied.

Q: What are the advantages of becoming a United States citizen?

A: One of the main advantages of becoming a United States citizen is that you are able to participate meaningfully in the election of the various forms of governments which exist in your particular state of residence. In other words you are able to vote. This advantage is very important for as we realize in this country, "every vote counts". The power to vote is the life blood of democracy and each vote nourishes our democratic system and gives it life.

Once you are a United States citizen you become eligible to apply for certain federal, state and city jobs; which you were not otherwise eligible to apply for when you were a permanent resident.

IMMIGRATION MATTERS - THREE

When you become a citizen of the United States, you are able to apply for adjustment of status for your spouse, parents and children under the age of eighteen years. This means that once you are a citizen, and any of those immediate relatives described are in the United States, you may apply for them to obtain their green card. In addition, if any of your children are under the age of eighteen years when they obtain their green card, they may acquire automatic United States citizenship. In addition, as a United States citizen, whenever you adopt a child outside of the United States, that child may also automatically acquire United States citizenship as long as the adoption was done when the child was under the age of eighteen years of age.

This automatic or derivative citizenship acquisition is very important, for I am tired of seeing individuals bring their child or children to the United States at a tender age as permanent residents, and the parents then refuse to become naturalized citizens prior to their child's or children's eighteenth birthday. Then, as it sometimes happens, later on when the child is facing deportation for one reason or the other, the child cannot claim derivative citizenship through their parents' naturalization before they were eighteen years of age. This is a shame and inexcusable. If anything, people should take this benefit of naturalization seriously because they are protecting the rights of their children now and in the future.

Q: How long does it take to obtain United States citizenship?

A: This is a difficult question for me to answer. If you are referring to the processing time for applications, the government of the United States has the sole power to determine the processing time for citizenship applications. However, as long as the application is properly submitted, it can take anywhere from six months to one year from the application to the swearing-in ceremony.

Q: Do I lose my rights as a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda after I have acquired United States citizenship?

A: On the surface a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda who becomes a naturalized citizen of another country does not lose his or her citizenship right. However, such citizens are disqualified from election to the House of Representatives as well as from appointment to the Senate.

Chapter VIII, Section 115 of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda provides for dual citizenship and appears to protect the rights of citizens of Antigua and Barbuda who become citizens of other countries; by clearly stating that such persons (a) shall not be deprived of their citizenship; or (b) refused registration as a citizen; or (c) required to renounce his citizenship of that other country, by or under any law. It would appear that the citizenship rights of dual citizens are protected in the constitution. However, I should point out that dual citizens who obtained their citizenship of another country by swearing an oath of allegiance to that country are barred from holding not only elected office in Antigua and Barbuda, but they are barred from being elected to Parliament. The disqualification from appointment as a Senator or election to the House of Representatives is provided for in Chapter IV Section (30)(1)(a) and Section 39(1)(a) of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda which clearly states that: "No person shall be qualified to be appointed as a Senator who (a) is, by virtue of his own act, under any acknowledgment or allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power or state..."

Clearly, Chapter IV Section (30)(1)(a) and Section 39(1)(a) of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda which disqualifies citizens of Antigua and Barbuda who have become naturalized citizens of other countries from election to the House of Representatives and from appointment to the Senate is in conflict with Chapter VIII, Section 115 which protects the rights of dual citizens. Moreover, there is no such prohibition for election to the House of Representatives, or appointment to the Senate for citizens of other countries who are naturalized citizens of Antigua and Barbuda. Thus, not only is there a conflict in the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda, but it also raises the issue of whether or not the constitution discriminates against the class of individuals who are citizens of Antigua and Barbuda who have become naturalized citizens of other countries.

Q: Where can I apply for United States Citizenship?

A: After you have completed your application, send your N-400 application and supporting documents to the Service Center having jurisdiction over your place of residence. If you live in CT, DE, District of Columbia, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA, WV, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, send your N-400 application to:

**Vermont Service Center • 75 Lower Welden St
St. Albans • VT 05479-9400**

Holidays Observed	
March 21	Good Friday
May 26	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day-US
August 4	August Monday
August 5	August Tuesday
September 1	Labor Day
November 3	Antigua and Barbuda's Independence Day Observed
November 27	Thanksgiving Day
November 28	Day after Thanksgiving
December 10	Heroes Day
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	Boxing Day

3 Dag Condominiums
 305 E. 47th Street
 6th Floor
 New York, NY 10017
 Phone: 212-541-4119
 Fax: 646-215-6009



Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda – NY

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