

## **Civil Rights Highlights at the Upcoming ADC Convention**

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) is happy to announce that it will be holding its 25th Year Silver Anniversary Convention from May 27-29, 2005, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel located on Capitol Hill in Washington DC.

For ADC and the community, this year's Convention will be particularly timely and relevant because it will mark ADC's Silver Anniversary. Founded in 1980, ADC is celebrating 25 years of dedicated service to civil and human rights. We hope that you will be able to join us in taking pride in the tremendous efforts and successes of ADC over the years. We also hope that you will join us as we seek to enhance this record of consistent achievement on behalf of civil rights at home, and peace and justice in the Middle East. You can learn more about the 25th Year Silver Anniversary Convention and register online at: <http://www.adc.org/registration.html>

The Convention will, as always, serve to be the largest annual gathering of Arab Americans and supporters to meet, organize, and plan activities. Participants will be able to attend informative panel discussions and workshops on civil rights, understanding immigration issues, Palestine and Iraq, domestic and foreign policy affairs, organizing and empowerment, and media relations, among others. ADC will be providing more details on these panels and workshops as the information becomes available.

As with previous Conventions, civil rights and liberties will be a major focus for speakers, panels and award recipients. As part of the Convention, ADC will be holding its Annual Civil Rights Awards Luncheon, scheduled from 12:30-2:00 on Saturday May 28. This event has traditionally served as the primary forum where convention attendees learn about the issues affecting their rights and the steps their government, and civil rights organization, are taking to address civil rights and liberties, and immigrants' rights in a constructive and effective approach.

At this time, guests include:

Daniel Sutherland, Director, Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the US Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Sutherland will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Civil Rights Awards Luncheon on Saturday.

Laura Murphy, Director, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Legislative Office. Winner of the ADC "2005 Distinguished Service Award." (Special introduction and remarks by Gegory Nojeim, Deputy Director, ACLU Legislative Office).

"ADC Excellence in Advocacy Award" winners this year include: the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF) [invited] and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF).

Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Winner of the 2005 ADC

"Friend in Government Award".

Additionally, one of the highlights on Saturday May 28, is a panel entitled, "Civil Rights Discussion: Liberty AND Security," facilitated by Kareem Shora, Director of Legal Policy at ADC. Panelists include:

Timothy Edgar, Legislative Counsel for National Security Issues, ACLU

Cory Smith, Legislative Counsel, Human Rights First

Ahmed Younis, National Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)