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CITIZENSHIP DRIVE WILL OFFER FREE LEGAL SERVICES

Volunteers will help Citizenship applicants under the supervision of attorneys

Margate, FL, April 15, 2016– The Brazilian Community Center (Centro Comunitário Brasileiro), in partnership with the American Brazilian International Lawyers Association, and several other local private businesses such as BB&T Bank and DebtHelper, a nonprofit credit agency, will be offering legal services free of charge for those looking to become United States Citizens.

The event will take place at the Vine Church, located at 5500 Coconut Creek Pkwy, Margate, Florida, this May 7th between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Those who have been lawful permanent residents of the United States for at least 5 years (three years if immigration status was obtained through marriage to a United States Citizen), have not had absences of over 6 continuous months, and do not have any criminal issues can benefit from free legal services offered on this date. Anyone can benefit from the services, irrespective of place of residence and income.

Renata Castro, Esq., an Immigration attorney and a long - time resident of Margate, has approached local Margate leaders to hold the Citizenship Drive in Margate, in an effort to push last minute voters to the polls this November. "Margate residents are eager to participate in the democratic process, and we did not want money to be an obstacle to reaching that amazing milestone", said Castro. Individuals on public assistance can request a waiver of the US\$ 680, 00 fee payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"). DHS also accepts credit card payments.

Urbano Santos, President of the Brazilian Community Center, is an active member of the Margate Community, both as the owner of Urbano's Furniture and as a member of the men's cell at St. Vincent's Catholic Church. Urbano is also a member of the Citizens' Council at the Brazilian Consulate in Miami.

A list of documents required for the event can be found at <u>www.brazilusalaw.org</u>, and appointments are highly encouraged.

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If you would like more information about this event, please contact Renata Castro, Esq. at American Brazilian International Lawyers Association or email at renata@renatacastrolaw.com.