

For Immediate Release
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NEW YORK IMMIGRANT ARTISTS TO RECEIVE FOUNDATION RECOGNITION

WASHINGTON, D.C. —On December 8, 2003, the American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF) will host the 4th Annual New York Immigrant Achievement Awards. The event will honor outstanding immigrants whose contributions to the arts have greatly enriched our nation. Honorees in attendance include: internationally acclaimed Russian born painter and sculptor, **Mihail Chemiakin**; Bulgarian and Moroccan born artists **Christo and Jeanne-Claude** widely recognized for their upcoming exhibits in Central Park and the Metropolitan Museum of Art; French born executive chef of New York's *Lespinasse* restaurant, **Christian Delouvrier**; and Academy Award nominated Indian born film director **Mira Nair**. In addition, the Foundation will present a memorial Distinguished Public Service Award to **Arthur C. Helton**, who was killed during the recent bombing of the United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. Mr. Helton was an expert on asylum and refugee law. For full honoree biographies, please visit www.ailf.org.

The evening will commence **at 5:30 pm on December 8, 2003 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City**. Past honorees of the AILF Immigrant Achievement Awards include actress Zoe Caldwell; film producer Ismail Merchant; and actor Alan Cummings.

The American Immigration Law Foundation, founded in 1987, is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of immigration law and policy and the value of immigration to American society; to promoting public service and excellence in the practice of immigration law; and to advancing fundamental fairness and due process under the law for immigrants. Recently the Foundation has been at the helm of the battle to counter negative images and messages regarding immigration that have been promoted to the public following the September 11th terrorist attacks. Efforts have included various pieces of policy work and legal advisories. For more information about the Foundation, please visit www.ailf.org.

If you wish to interview the honorees or attend the ceremony, please contact Rhiannon Jacobsen, Development Associate, at 202-742-5603 or via email as rjacobsen@ailf.org.

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