



NEWS ADVISORY

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Top Financial Advisor To Appear On Live Web Chat Feature On Its Spanish Language Web Site

Louis Barajas To Host Session On February 11, 2004 At Noon EST.

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that Louis Barajas, a top financial planner and small business advisor will appear in a live web chat on its Spanish language Web site, www.negocios.gov on Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at Noon EST (9 a.m. PST). Mr. Barajas will discuss how to make your small business more profitable and how to balance it with your life.

Mr. Barajas follows SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto, who launched the very successful first live Web chat on January 8. Approximately 300 questions were submitted by participants.

Mr. Barajas has had a long career in the financial planning field. From 1997 to 2001, he wrote a weekly financial and consumer advocacy column called “Entre Numeros” for La Opinion, a Los Angeles-based Spanish language daily newspaper. He currently writes a monthly financial column for the national Latino men’s magazine, Open Your Eyes and also contributes articles to other Latino and financial magazines.

In September 2002, Mutual Funds Magazine named Mr. Barajas as one of the Top 100 Financial Advisors in the United States. In January 2003, he was chosen to be on the national advisory board for the Journal of Financial Planning. HarperCollins published Mr. Barajas’ national best selling book, The Latino Journey to Financial Greatness, in February 2003.

Mr. Barajas is often profiled or quoted in local and national television, radio, and press, such as, CNBC, Univision, CNN en Español, ABC NEWS, Despierta America, National Public Radio, Los Angeles Times, Hispanic Magazine, Hispanic Business Magazine, and Latina Magazine, among many others.

Mr. Barajas will answer questions for approximately 2 hours. To join the live Web chat, participants should go to www.negocios.gov and click on “Chat en Vivo.” Participants wishing to ask a question for Mr. Barajas prior to February 11 may also visit this same location and post their question.

Live Web chats are scheduled to take place on a monthly basis. For details on future live Web chats, visit www.negocios.gov.