

## Court Information Release



United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **124 Citizenship Candidates Sworn in at Chicago Botanic Garden**

Glencoe, Ill. – On October 30, 2023, U.S. District Judge Matthew F. Kennelly administered the Oath of Allegiance to 124 candidates from 44 countries at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

“Congratulations, new citizens, on completing your citizenship journey. We welcome you and encourage you to actively participate in our community and nation by voting, volunteering, and serving upon juries when called upon,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, and Congressman Brad Schneider, 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, offered congratulatory remarks. Ivan Adames, Chief Development Officer of the Chicago Botanic Garden, and Pauline Woodson, Branch Chief of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Chicago Field Office, also welcomed the new citizens.

Following the ceremony, volunteers from the League of Women Voters of Glenview-Glencoe assisted new citizens with registering to vote. The League of Women Voters is a national nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy; the League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

Every year thousands of immigrants visit the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to be sworn in as U.S. citizens at naturalization ceremonies. The district’s judges preside over these ceremonies, which take place in both of the district’s courthouses and throughout the district. Family and friends gather to watch as new citizens take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States, a sworn declaration that every citizenship applicant must recite during a formal ceremony in order to become a naturalized American citizen. When taking the Oath, the new citizen promises to support and defend the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the U.S.

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Congressman Brad Schneider welcomes new citizens (above photo courtesy of USCIS)



Judge Matthew Kennelly administers the Oath of Allegiance.