



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

Release Date:
April 11, 2023

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Court to Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with Case Reenactments and Discussion

Chicago, Ill. - On May 3, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is co-hosting "When Citizenship Depended on Race," a case reenactment and discussion in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

The event will feature reenactments of arguments and discussion of two historically significant immigration cases in the U.S. Supreme Court: *United States v. Ozawa*, 260 U.S. 178 (1922) (finding Takao Ozawa, a Japanese-born man who had lived in the United States for 20 years, ineligible for naturalization because he was not "Caucasian") and *United States v. Thind*, 261 U.S. 204 (1923) (denying naturalized citizenship to Bhagat Singh Thind, an Indian Sikh man who was technically Caucasian but whom the Court determined did not meet the definition of "white"). Under the Naturalization Act of 1906, then in effect, only "free white persons" and "persons of African nativity or persons of African descent" could naturalize, so these two Supreme Court cases turned on whether Thind and Ozawa could establish that they were "free white persons" under the statute.

Circuit Judge John Z. Lee, District Judge Edmond E Chang, District Judge Martha M. Pacold, District Judge Manish S. Shah, Magistrate Judge Sunil R. Harjani, and Magistrate Judge Young B. Kim are participating in the reenactment as U.S. Supreme Court Justices, along with members of the bar and representatives from numerous Asian American bar associations playing other characters in the reenactment.

[Event registration details can be found here.](#) The event is complimentary to all.

A reception outside the courtroom will follow the reenactments. The event will be co-hosted by the Federal Bar Association, Chicago Chapter, and the Asian American Bar Association of Chicago. Co-sponsors include the Asian American Judges Association of Illinois, the Arab American Bar Association of Illinois, the Chinese American Bar Association, the Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago, the Japanese American Bar Association, the Korean American Bar Association of Chicago, and the South Asian Bar Association of Chicago.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated in the month of May. It recognizes the vast contributions and influence of Asian American and Pacific Islander Americans to the United States.

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When Citizenship Depended on Race

ASIAN
PACIFIC
AMERICAN
HERITAGE
MONTH

Reenactment* & Discussion of U.S. Supreme Court Cases
Ozawa v. U.S. (1922) and U.S. v. Thind (1923)



Takao Ozawa

Wed. May 3, 2023

4 pm Program / 5:30 pm Reception
Everett M. Dirksen U.S. Courthouse
Ceremonial Courtroom



Bhagat Singh Thind

IL D&I
CLE Credit
(pending)

COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATION
bit.ly/ozawathind

* Script courtesy of the
Asian American Bar
Association of New York

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