



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

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Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2514A
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

137 Individuals Sworn in as New U.S. Citizens at College of DuPage's McAninch Arts Center

Glen Ellyn, Illinois – Today the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and 137 new citizens from 38 countries for a naturalization ceremony at the College of DuPage (COD), the largest community college in Illinois.

“At a time when our nation faces tremendous challenges and heightened political polarization, our Court is inspired to welcome our newest citizens. Their talents, perseverance, stories, and cultures make our nation stronger and more vibrant. As we kick off Independence Day weekend, we urge our new citizens to get involved in our community and nation by voting, serving on juries when called upon, and volunteering,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

District Judge John F. Kness, Northern District of Illinois, presided over the ceremony at the McAninch Arts Center on COD's campus.

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.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court has conducted naturalization ceremonies outdoors, in large public spaces that allow for distancing, and has had to limit the number of citizens at each courthouse ceremony to allow for social distancing and to comply with health guidelines.

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