

## Court Information Release



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

**Release Date:**  
September 15, 2022

**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

### **60 New Citizens Sworn in at Cantigny Park for Special Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Ceremony**

Wheaton, Ill. - Today the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted a naturalization ceremony at Cantigny Park. 60 candidates from 27 countries were sworn in as new U.S. citizens.

"We are so pleased to be celebrating our nation's newest citizens in the beautiful setting of Cantigny Park. What a perfect way to honor Constitution Week," said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Marmion Academy students conducted a colors ceremony, and the Chicago Brass Band provided music. Matt LaFond, Executive Director of Cantigny Park, welcomed the new citizens. U.S. District Judge John F. Kness administered the Oath of Allegiance. Kevin Riddle, Chicago Field Office Director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, congratulated the new citizens.

September 17 is Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. This commemorates the September 17, 1787, signing of the United States Constitution.

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.

##

