

Court Information Release



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

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246 New American Citizens Take Oath at Rockford's Coronado Performing Arts Center

Rockford, Ill. – Today at the Coronado Performing Arts Center, 246 individuals from 46 countries were sworn in as U.S. citizens. Today's ceremony was the largest naturalization ceremony to take place in the Northern District of Illinois' Western Division.

“While our hearts break for those in our world suffering the tragedy of war and displacement, today's ceremony is a hopeful one. As we welcome our new citizens and celebrate the fulfillment of their citizenship journey, we hope for a world where all people live in safety and freedom from violence,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Judge Pallmeyer welcomed the new citizens. U.S. District Judge Iain D. Johnston administered the Oath of Allegiance.

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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