

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

Rockford, Ill. – Today at the Coronado Performing Arts Center, 304 individuals from 69 countries were sworn in as U.S. citizens at a special naturalization ceremony.

“We are so happy to welcome and congratulate our newest citizens. In this time of deep division in our country, you, our newest citizens, remind us that our nation is still a beacon of hope and freedom,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Chief Judge Pallmeyer; Kevin Riddle, Field Office Director for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and Gretchen Gilmore, ASM Rockford General Manager of the BMO Harris Bank Center and Coronado Theater, all welcomed the new citizens. U.S. Magistrate Judge Lisa A. Jensen administered the Oath of Allegiance and offered remarks.

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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Above 3 photos courtesy of USCIS

