

## Court Information Release



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

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### **Chief Judge Pallmeyer Administers Oath of Allegiance to 99 Naval Recruits from 31 Countries at Naval Station Great Lakes**

On February 15, 2024, Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer administered to Oath of Allegiance to 99 new citizens, from 31 countries and 6 continents, all of them U.S. Navy Cadets. The ceremony took place at Naval Station Great Lakes (NSGL).

“The Court is honored to be part of this partnership, which assists U.S. Navy recruits in becoming U.S. citizens. We welcome our newest citizens at Naval Station Great Lakes and commend them, for they have already shown tremendous commitment to our nation by enlisting in the U.S. Navy,” said Judge Pallmeyer.

In 2021, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) Midwest, and Recruit Training (RTC) launched a pilot program to expedite citizenship for recruits who are qualified under the Immigration & Nationality Act Section 329, which allows expedited naturalization for aliens and non-citizen nationals serving in an active-duty status.

Opened in 1911, NSGL is the Navy’s largest training installation and the home of the Navy’s only Boot Camp.

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. 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.

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Photo courtesy of Naval Station Great Lakes