



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

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### **District Court Holds First Ever Naturalization Ceremony at Museum of Science and Industry**

Chicago, Ill. - Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer administered the Oath of Allegiance to 150 citizenship candidates from 45 countries at the first ever naturalization ceremony at the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI).

“We welcome our new citizens and congratulate them. Despite conflict in our world and nation, we are uplifted to know that thousands of people, including those being sworn in today, are enthusiastic to join our nation as citizens,” said Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias and Museum of Science and Industry President and CEO Chevy Humphrey welcomed and congratulated the new citizens. “Hamilton” cast member Deon'te Goodman sang the National Anthem. Museum President Humphrey announced a special gift to the new citizens: an annual membership in the Museum. Following the ceremony, the new citizens took photos with their families and supporters at the “Christmas Around the World” and “Holidays of Light” exhibits.

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.

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Photos courtesy of the Museum of Science and Industry