



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

Release Date:
May 16, 2024

Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2548
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

25 New Citizens Sworn in on Infield at Guaranteed Rate Field before Chicago White Sox Game

Chicago, Ill. –On May 15, 2024, the Chicago White Sox hosted a naturalization ceremony at Guaranteed Rate Field. U.S. District Judge Thomas M. Durkin administered the Oath of Allegiance to 25 candidates from 17 countries on the infield just before the White Sox afternoon game against the Washington Nationals.

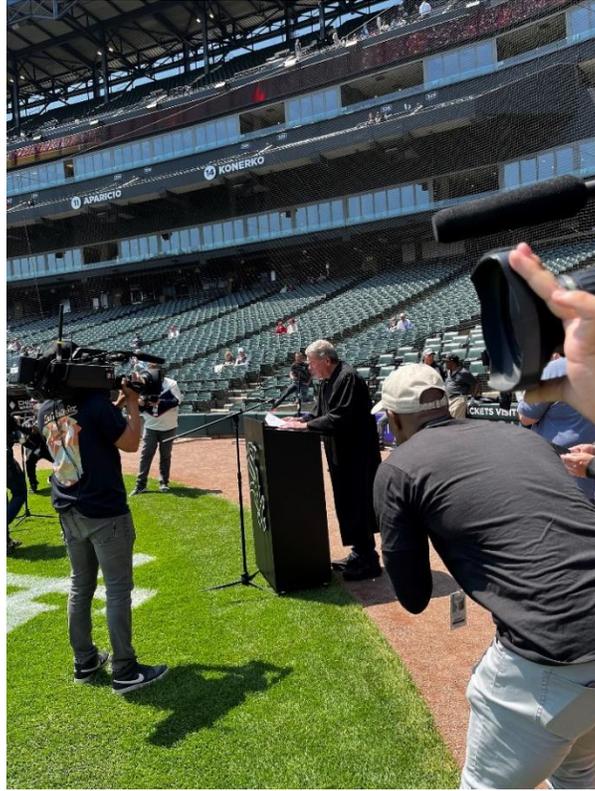
“Today’s ceremony was an uplifting welcome for our nation’s newest citizens, and we were so pleased to celebrate the completion of their citizenship journeys at a Chicago White Sox game,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer. “The Sox beat the Nationals, 2-0, but the real winners were the 25 new citizens, who waved their flags proudly and enjoyed the game with their families.”

White Sox rookie and third baseman Bryan Ramos presented the new citizens with White Sox caps, and Judge Durkin threw out the ceremonial first pitch—a strike, of course.

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 at other venues 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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Above photos are courtesy of USCIS.