



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

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U.S. District Court Welcomes 104 Citizenship Candidates in Naturalization Ceremony at Rialto Square Theatre

Joliet, Ill. - On April 18, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted a naturalization ceremony at the Rialto Square Theater in Joliet in which 104 new citizens from 34 countries were sworn in as U.S. citizens.

"We are thrilled to welcome you, our nation's newest citizens. Our hope is that you will become active members of our community and nation. Vote, advocate for causes that are important to you, and serve on juries when you are called," said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall.

Magistrate Judge Laura K. McNally administered the Oath of Allegiance. Congresswoman Lauren Underwood welcomed the new citizens.

South Suburban Immigration Project assisted the new citizens with voter registration.

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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