



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
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U.S. District Court Swears in 28 Citizenship Candidates in First Ever Naturalization Ceremony at Midway International Airport

Chicago, Ill. – On June 25, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted a naturalization ceremony at Midway International Airport in which 28 new citizens from 6 countries were sworn in as U.S. citizens, marking the first ever naturalization ceremony at a Chicago airport.

“Congratulations and welcome to our new citizens. As we approach our nation’s Independence Day, your journey and story inspires and reminds us that our nation’s strength and vibrance is in its diversity,” said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall.

District Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer administered the Oath of Allegiance and welcomed the new citizens. Chicago Department of Aviation Commissioner Michael McMurray shared congratulatory 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.

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