

Court Information Release



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Chief Judge Castillo administers oath and welcomes new citizens at Illinois' 10th Annual Constitution Day Celebration in Daley Plaza

Chicago, Ill.- On September 18, Chief Judge Rubén Castillo administered the oath of allegiance to more than 60 new American citizens and offered remarks at Illinois' 10th annual U.S. Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Celebration at Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago.

“It is an honor to preside over this ceremony, naturalizing new American citizens who represent the rich diversity of our district. Each of your incredible journeys and your desire to pursue a new life here reminds and inspires us that this is indeed what makes our nation so great,” said Judge Castillo.

At the celebration Judge Castillo shared his own American story. He was born on the West Side of Chicago to immigrant parents, his father from Mexico and his mother from Puerto Rico. Judge Castillo was nominated by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the Senate in 1994, becoming the first Latino federal judge in Illinois.

In his remarks, Judge Castillo also reminded new citizens of not only the rights but also the important responsibilities that come along with American citizenship, especially voting and serving on juries.

The Celebration was sponsored by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office and included a presentation of colors, parade of flags, and music by Bugles Across America and Navy Band Great Lakes. Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State, and ABC Channel 7 Meteorologist Cheryl Scott also offered remarks.

Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787.

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