

Court Information Release



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

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District Court Swears in 97 New Citizens Including Illinois Army National Guard Soldier

CHICAGO, Ill. – U.S. District Judge Georgia Alexakis administered the Oath of Citizenship to 97 candidates from 36 countries in a naturalization ceremony at Dirksen U.S. Courthouse. Among the candidates was an Illinois Army National Guard Soldier, Specialist Adiodun Lucas Abayomi. Born in Nigeria, SPC Abayomi pursued citizenship through the military expedited naturalization process.

“On behalf of the Court, I extend a warm welcome all our newest citizens. Today’s ceremony reminds us that many of those seeking citizenship have already demonstrated courageous commitment to our nation by enlisting and serving in our armed forces,” said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall.

U.S. service members, veterans, and their families may be eligible for certain immigration benefits in recognition of their important sacrifices. For more information, visit USCIS’ website at www.uscis.gov/military/military

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. 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 United States.

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Above left: Specialist Adiodun Lucas Abayomi with his wife, children, and his recruiter, Sergeant Alejandro Rosales. Above right: U.S. District Judge Georgia Alexakis with Adiodun Lucas Abayomi

