

## Court Information Release



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

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the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **Magistrate Judge Holleb Hotaling Swears in New Citizen in Skilled Nursing Facility**

CHICAGO, Ill.- On May 9, 2025, Amtul Hafeez was sworn in as a new citizen. Ms. Hafeez was born in Pakistan and today resides in a skilled nursing facility in Chicago. Her granddaughter, Sajal Zaffar, was by her side as U.S. Magistrate Judge Keri Holleb Hotaling administered the Oath of Allegiance.

"In some circumstances it is impossible for candidates who have completed their citizenship journey to travel to the courthouse for the final step of a naturalization ceremony. We are so grateful to judges, like Judge Holleb Hotaling, who volunteer to swear in homebound candidates," said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall.

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. Requests for homebound oaths are handled and reviewed by the USCIS Office of Civil Rights and DEIA Office. 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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Left to right: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Officer; Amtul Hafeez; her granddaughter, Sajal Zaffar; Judge Holleb Hotaling