

Court Information Release



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

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Court Swears in 50 New Citizens at Instituto del Progreso Latino

CHICAGO, Ill. – On September 26, 2026, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Deborah L. Thorne, Northern District of Illinois, administered the Oath of Citizenship to 50 candidates from 24 countries in a naturalization ceremony at the Instituto del Progreso Latino. Congressman Jesús “Chuy” García welcomed the new citizens.

“On behalf of the Court, I extend congratulations to our newest citizens. I urge you to become involved in civic life here – vote, report for jury service when called upon, volunteer in your community, run for office. Our country needs your talent and grit,” 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. 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.

Instituto del Progreso Latino is dedicated to contributing to the fullest development of Latino immigrants and their families through education, training and employment that fosters full participation in the changing United States society while preserving cultural identity and dignity.

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