



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

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Magistrate Judge McNally Swears in New Citizens in their Home

Sisters Nida Shahid and Eman Shahid, along with their brother, Ahmad Zubair were sworn in as new U.S. citizens at their home on December 13, 2024. The three candidates are all siblings from Pakistan and have advanced muscular dystrophy, which limits their overall mobility.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Laura K. McNally traveled to the candidates' home and administered the Oath of Allegiance. Judge McNally was sworn in as the newest magistrate judge in the Northern District of Illinois on November 1 of this year, and this was the first citizenship ceremony she administered.

"I told the family that just as they would likely remember me for the rest of their lives, I would certainly remember them, my first new citizens, for the rest of mine," said U.S. Magistrate Judge Laura McNally.

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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