



United States District Court
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Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2548
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

25 New Citizens Sworn in on Infield at Guaranteed Rate Field before Chicago White Sox Game

Chicago, Ill. – On June 5, 2025, the Chicago White Sox hosted a naturalization ceremony at Guaranteed Rate Field. U.S. District Judge Matthew F. Kennelly administered the Oath of Allegiance to 25 candidates from 16 countries on the infield just before the White Sox afternoon game against the Detroit Tigers.

“Today’s ceremony was a heartening welcome for 25 of our nation’s newest citizens and their families. I can’t think of more perfect or uniquely American setting than a Major League Baseball game. There was so much to celebrate: the Sox won in extra innings, and our new citizens successfully completed their citizenship journeys,” said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall.

Former White Sox right fielder and designated hitter Harold Baines presented the new citizens with White Sox caps. The White Sox hosted the new citizens and their families for a special luncheon and presented them with tickets to the game.

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 at other venues throughout the district. Family and friends gather to watch as 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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Photos by Darren Georgia, courtesy of the Chicago White Sox