

Court Information Release



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

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489 New American Citizens Take Oath at Wintrust Arena in Chicago

Chicago, Ill. – On June 18, 2024, 489 individuals from 77 countries were sworn in as U.S. citizens in a special naturalization ceremony at the Wintrust Arena, home of the Chicago Sky and DePaul Men’s and Women’s basketball teams.

“We are thrilled to welcome our newest citizens. We recognize that your journey to this day was full of challenges and sacrifices and wish you all the best in your next chapter as American citizens,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, U.S. District Court N.D. Illinois.

U.S. Circuit Judge John Z. Lee, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, administered the Oath of Allegiance. Chief Judge Pallmeyer welcomed the new citizens.

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. 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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