



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

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### **U.S. District Court Swears in 317 Citizenship Candidates in Naturalization Ceremony at Rockford's Coronado Performing Arts Center**

Rockford, Ill. - The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted a naturalization ceremony at the Coronado Performing Arts Center in which 317 new citizens from 61 countries were sworn in as U.S. citizens.

“On behalf of the Court, congratulations and welcome to our newest citizens. We recognize your journey to this day likely included great sacrifice and challenges. I encourage you take an active role in American life. Register to vote, get involved in our community, and serve on a jury when you are called,” said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Margaret J. Schneider administered the Oath of Allegiance and welcomed the new citizens. Congressman Eric Sorensen offered congratulatory remarks.

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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