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

District Court Hosts Naturalization Ceremony at Griffin Museum of Science and Industry

Chicago, Ill. **–** On December 13, 2024, Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall administered the Oath of Allegiance to 148 citizenship candidates from 56 countries at a special naturalization ceremony at the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry (Griffin MSI).

"We welcome our new citizens and congratulate them. We are uplifted by the hard work and sacrifices of those so enthusiastic to join our nation as citizens," said Chief Judge Kendall.

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Griffin MSI President and CEO Dr. Chevy Humphrey welcomed and congratulated the new citizens. Dr. Humphrey announced a special gift to the new citizens: an annual family membership to the Griffin MSI. Rachel Simone Webb, starring in *& JULIET,* currently running at Broadway In Chicago's Cadillac Palace Theatre, sang the national anthem. Following the ceremony, the new citizens took photos with their families and supporters at the "Christmas Around the World Holidays of Light" exhibit.

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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