

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

NATURALIZATION PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

THE HONORABLE NANCY D. FREUDENTHAL
CHIEF JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF WYOMING, PRESIDING

THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN
CHIEF MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Monday, July 9, 2012
10:00 a.m.
Ceremonial Courtroom
Cheyenne, Wyoming

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Ceremonial proceedings commenced
10:00 a.m., July 9, 2012.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: A special welcome to everybody here represented. We are pleased and honored by your attendance today.

The first order of business is the suspension of the rules on cameras in the courtroom, and so please feel free to take photographs of your loved ones and others as we go through this ceremony today.

It is my honor to do the roll call of citizens to be naturalized. I must say my last name is a difficult one to pronounce, and about half of the time, if not more, people mispronounce it. And so with my apologies for the mispronunciation that will likely occur as I read your names and your country of origin and former nationality, I will proceed.

Just so that I have a sense of who we have here today, I would ask as I read your name if you recognize it, based on my pronunciation, to please stand.

The first name is Marisol Pitre from Costa Rica.
Welcome.

The next one is -- and it would be nice to have all of the family members applaud, but I think so that we can get through the roll call with the number of individuals we have

1 here today, let's wait until all of the individuals are
2 introduced and we will do a large and warm welcome at the end
3 with applause.

4 Macario Ibarra Lopez from Mexico, Amelia Emilia Loma
5 de Ibarra from Mexico, Yaser Aly Abdelkader from Egypt, Daveka
6 Kellum from Trinidad & Tobago, Angelica Quintano Colson from
7 the Philippines, Gabriela Paola Stone from Mexico, Dan Stanescu
8 from Canada, Wenlin Han from China, Abhishek Mehra from India,
9 Abdenago Torre Antillon from Mexico, Amauri Caas Martinez from
10 Mexico, Edwin Gutierrez Castro from Peru, Angel Guadarrama
11 Benitez from Mexico, Olivia Alvarado Reyes from Mexico,
12 Phaneendra Bollavaram from India, Zuyi Li from China, Balubhai
13 Bhikhabhai Ahir from India, Guadalupe Dominguez from Mexico,
14 Nolberta Gonzalez from Mexico, Guadalupe Catalina Beck from
15 Mexico, Yamin Li from China, Mary Ann Bell from Canada, Wenyong
16 Wang from China, Pablo Saldivar from Mexico, Jose Antonio Leon
17 Guzman from Mexico. Let's give all of these a round of
18 applause.

19 (Applause.)

20 At this time I would like to turn to the Assistant
21 U.S. Attorney, Mark Klaassen, for the motion for naturalization
22 of all petitioners.

23 MR. KLAASSEN: Thank you. Good morning, Your Honor,
24 Magistrate Judge Rankin. May it please the Court, my name is
25 Mark Klaassen. I'm here today appearing as a representative of

1 the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Wyoming
2 and also on behalf of the Attorney General of the United States
3 in these proceedings.

4 It is my privilege, Your Honor, to introduce to the
5 Court the following individuals who appear in person for a
6 hearing on their petitions for naturalization as United States
7 citizen. And at this time I normally read through the list,
8 but since you've already introduced them through your roll
9 call, I will simply refer to that in the record by reference to
10 all those individuals who have just been recognized.

11 Each of these individuals, Your Honor, has been
12 interviewed and examined under oath by a designated examiner of
13 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services who has
14 completed a character and background investigation for each one
15 of them.

16 Citizenship and Immigration Services indicates that
17 each of these individuals has met all the requirements for
18 naturalization and is well qualified as a desirable candidate
19 for United States citizenship.

20 As a fellow citizen, I want to welcome and
21 congratulate each and every one of them on this very special
22 occasion.

23 And so on the recommendation of the immigration
24 officer, it is my distinct honor to move that all of these
25 petitioners be granted United States citizenship upon taking

1 the oath. Thank you, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

3 Before we move to the next matter of business which
4 will be the Pledge of Allegiance, I would like to make some
5 additional introductions so that everyone here knows who is
6 present besides the petitioners, who are our most important and
7 valued guests.

8 I'm pleased to be joined here today with Wyoming's new
9 Chief Magistrate Judge, Magistrate Judge Kelly Rankin. Judge
10 Rankin has attended naturalization ceremonies in his past role
11 as Chief of the Criminal Division for the United States
12 Attorney's Office, and so he has had the pleasure of standing
13 in the shoes of Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Klaassen to make
14 the motion for petitioners. I will be calling on him a bit
15 later in the proceedings for some remarks.

16 My name is Nancy Freudenthal. I'm pleased and honored
17 to be a district judge here in the District of Wyoming.

18 We are joined here today by Debbie Nielson, our
19 courtroom deputy, who each of you have been working with to
20 complete the paperwork in proper order. She's helped me
21 organize these proceedings and get this all ready to go and
22 welcome the guests and visitors to the courthouse today.

23 We are also pleased to be joined by Zane Smith. He's
24 our -- in our technology section for the clerk's office, and
25 he's here to make sure that when we run the system to listen to

1 the President's message and other matters through our video and
2 audio devices that everything works well.

3 Ms. Jan Davis is our courtroom reporter here today
4 taking down these proceedings. They will be posted and
5 available for the new naturalized citizens. If you wish to
6 have a record of the proceeding today, that will be made
7 available to you through the court's website. I so appreciate
8 the assistance of our court reporter and our court clerk's
9 staff just to make sure everything runs smoothly.

10 So at this time I would invite all the petitioners and
11 all other United States citizens who are joining us here today
12 to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

13 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

14 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. Please be
15 seated.

16 Zane, if you could play the National Anthem for our
17 enjoyment. Thank you.

18 (National Anthem played.)

19 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: At this time I would ask the
20 petitioners to all stand at their seats and raise your right
21 hand and we will administer the oath of allegiance.

22 Please repeat after me: I, state your name, do
23 solemnly swear, to support the Constitution of the United
24 States, to renounce and abjure absolutely, and entirely, all
25 allegiance and fidelity, to any foreign prince, potentate,

1 state, or sovereignty, of which, or to whom, I have previously
2 been a subject, or a citizen, to support and defend the
3 Constitution, and the laws of the United States, against all
4 enemies, foreign and domestic, and to bear true faith and
5 allegiance, to the same, and to bear arms on behalf of the
6 United States, when required by law, so help me God.

7 Congratulations.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Please be seated.

10 At this time I would ask Zane to present the
11 President's video to new naturalized citizens.

12 (Video played.)

13 (Applause.)

14 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you for your help with
15 those videos and the audio.

16 I would ask Debbie, our courtroom deputy, to present
17 the certificates to the newly naturalized citizens.

18 (Distribution of certificates of naturalization.)

19 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you.

20 Now we have various presentations by the patriotic
21 organizations that have joined us today. Before I call on the
22 representations from these organizations, I would like to take
23 a minute to reflect on the life and service of Jane Forbes who
24 was a member of the Colonial Dames, a friend of mine.

25 Her service has been distinguished in this court.

1 Judge Johnson, who handles many of the naturalization
2 ceremonies, asked me in particular to recognize Ms. Forbes.
3 While she may not be an individual known to the petitioners and
4 newly naturalized citizens, her memory is a warm memory among
5 the members of the organizations, among her friends such as me
6 and among the court family. So I'm pleased to recognize her
7 for her service.

8 We have the American flag and the Citizens Almanac to
9 be presented by the American Legion Post 6 Auxiliary to be
10 presented today by Dora Jones and Leigh Vosler.

11 Thank you, Leigh and Dora.

12 We also have the Daughters of the American Revolution
13 here today, and they will be handing out copies of the Wyoming
14 Constitution. We are happy to welcome Pam Imig, Donna Weaver
15 and Judy Engelhart.

16 Thank you, ladies.

17 And finally, the clerk's office will be distributing
18 copies of the United States Constitution and copies of the Star
19 Spangled Banner.

20 Thank you.

21 At this time we are honored to have join us Senate
22 Majority Floor Leader Tony Ross. Tony is my senator in my
23 district, and so that's a particular pleasure for me to have
24 Senator Ross here. I must say that Majority Floor Leader
25 sounds like more of a title than a job, but I can assure you

1 that it is quite the job. The Senate Majority Floor Leader
2 controls the order of bills. He can by his decisions make the
3 difference as to whether or not a bill in the state of Wyoming
4 actually becomes a law. I for the longest time thought that
5 the Senate Majority Floor Leader was much more important than
6 the President of the Senate, and occasionally I still do think
7 that.

8 And so with that, welcome, Senator Ross. If you would
9 like to address the newly naturalized citizens. We have set
10 the small podium up so that you can position yourself to speak
11 more directly to them. Feel free to have your back to me.
12 Welcome, sir.

13 SENATOR ROSS: Thank you. If it please the Court.

14 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Counsel.

15 SENATOR ROSS: And Assistant U.S. Attorney.

16 New citizens, members of your family, what a great day
17 for you. I've had the opportunity to argue before juries in
18 front of -- in this courtroom. I've had the opportunity to
19 argue bills on the floor of the legislature thousands of times.
20 But I must tell you that this is the first time that I've ever
21 had the opportunity to address new citizens. And quite
22 frankly, I'm nervous because it really is an important day. It
23 is a foundation of how our country has been formed over the
24 years, immigration, of course, being a big part of that.

25 So I'm impressed not only by you and your families and

1 the steps that you have taken to become citizens, and I'm sure
2 it is something that you have taken very seriously, so it is my
3 great honor to welcome you to our family, the family of United
4 States citizens.

5 As with any family, we have our blemishes, but we also
6 have many great attributes, most importantly are the freedoms
7 that this country bestows upon you. You bring with you your
8 own family traditions, cultures and values and you need to
9 cherish those. The great President Teddy Roosevelt said, and I
10 quote, "Americanism is a question of principles, idealism, of
11 character. It is not a matter of birthplace or creed or line
12 of descent."

13 But our founding fathers also had great debates over
14 immigration. George Washington I believe capsulated that
15 debate. He believed that it was important for immigrants to
16 assimilate into the American culture and that they would
17 become, quote, one people. To that end, let me tell you a
18 story of my family.

19 My grandfather emigrated from Sicily to the United
20 States through Ellis Island. His name was Anthony Rosciglione,
21 so I'm a third-generation American.

22 My grandfather settled in St. Louis where he lived the
23 American dream. He founded several businesses, including a
24 bakery that still stands in St. Louis today that's run by my
25 cousins known as the Rosciglione Bakery. He loved this

1 country. In fact, he loved it so much that he would not allow
2 his family to speak Italian in the family. He would say, "If
3 you don't like your Uncle Sammie, go back to your old home
4 country."

5 I am living proof of their efforts. My father, who is
6 an attorney here for many years, he changed his name from
7 Rosciglione to Ross, which is a totally long story I won't go
8 into today, but to say that I am proof that -- of the dream of
9 America. To stand before you and congratulate you is truly my
10 honor.

11 So my charge to you today is as Thomas Payne said:
12 "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like
13 men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it." I urge you to take
14 those words seriously.

15 God bless you and your families, and God bless the
16 United States.

17 (Applause.)

18 THE COURT: Thank you, Senator Ross.

19 I will now turn to our Chief Magistrate Judge Rankin
20 for a few comments to our new citizens.

21 CHIEF MAGISTRATE RANKIN: Thank you, Chief Judge
22 Freudenthal. Well, welcome. Congratulations to each of you
23 and your families. What a special honor and what a special day
24 it is for you. So as you've heard, I'm sure, through the
25 course of your studies, what does it mean to be an American.

1 Of course, it means that you have the right now to vote, that
2 you have the right to sit on a jury. It means that you have
3 all kinds of freedoms and liberties that perhaps you didn't
4 have in the United States of America before today.

5 No doubt, these are very important rights and
6 liberties, rights and liberties that people all over the world
7 envy.

8 But what else does it mean to be an American? As
9 Senator Ross indicated, it means that you get to be free.
10 Abraham Lincoln said, "Freedom is not the right to do what we
11 want, but what we ought. Let us have faith that right makes
12 might and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty
13 as we understand it."

14 For each of you, all of our communities, all of the
15 communities that you live in, have a lot to gain from you. You
16 are doing more here today than simply completing a legal
17 process. You are making a lifelong promise to uphold the laws
18 and the values of the United States of America and those values
19 that come with your citizenship.

20 And it also comes with great promise and the promise
21 along with great responsibility. New employment and leadership
22 doors are being opened wide open to you today. And I would
23 encourage you to explore what lies behind each one of those
24 doors.

25 Again, congratulations and welcome. You have worked

1 incredibly hard to earn your citizenship, and I know I speak
2 for all of your Wyoming neighbors when I say we are grateful to
3 have you.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Rankin.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to join in
8 the congratulations you have received from Senator Ross, from
9 U.S. Attorney Klaassen and from Chief Magistrate Judge Rankin
10 to congratulate you on your new citizenship.

11 I realize that perhaps for some of you it may have
12 been difficult to take an oath of allegiance which included a
13 part where you renounce your allegiance to any foreign state or
14 government. I wish to remind you that what you solemnly
15 renounced in that oath of allegiance is allegiance to the
16 government of another land.

17 You did not renounce nor should you ever renounce the
18 devotion you carry in your heart for the people of your native
19 land. Preserve that always.

20 And for the benefit of your children and your
21 grandchildren as well as your own benefit, I suggest that you
22 follow the advice of Senator Ross' grandfather and master the
23 English language. Learn it well. But also preserve your
24 native language, your native heritage and your culture. Doing
25 so enriches not only your lives, but the lives of your family,

1 but also the lives of our American community and all of us
2 living here. For over 200 years this country has been blessed
3 with a constant infusion of new people from all over the world
4 who brought their languages, their heritage, their culture,
5 their values with them.

6 Today it is you who bless us. Now I wish to speak
7 with you about your new role as United States citizens. You
8 may hear voices in this country saying that there's only one
9 true American religion. Do not believe those voices. As an
10 American you may freely and openly be a Christian, a Jew, a
11 Hindu, a Buddhist, a Muslim. You may adhere to any religion or
12 none at all.

13 You also may hear voices in this land saying that
14 there's only one true American way to think and believe about
15 political matters, economic matters and social matters. Again,
16 do not believe it. As an American you may freely and openly
17 adhere to political, economic and social views on the right, on
18 the left and anywhere in between.

19 You may hear voices in this land saying that there's
20 only one true American set of values. Do not believe those
21 voices either. As an American you may hold beliefs and values
22 greatly different from those of others, even if those of others
23 are shared by many and yours are shared by few.

24 Simply stated, there is no single American way to
25 think or believe. Indeed, conformity of thought and belief

1 would be contrary to the underlying principles of this great
2 nation.

3 Felix Frankfurter, a United States Supreme Court
4 Justice, came to this country from Austria in 1984. When he
5 was 12 years old, he became an American citizen. He went on to
6 become a justice of the United States Supreme Court. Justice
7 Frankfurter believed that in this country the highest office is
8 citizen.

9 You have now assumed that high office. And like any
10 office, that office has duties. You have the duty to be
11 informed. You have the duty to participate in political
12 matters and in the political process. You have a duty to vote,
13 to serve on a jury, and, yes, even to pay taxes. You also have
14 a duty to work to make the United States the country you hoped
15 to find and that you want it to be.

16 I welcome you to the office of citizen with all of its
17 rights and duties. You hold that office among all your other
18 positions. And I enjoyed reading a bit of background. We have
19 here today people from many countries, cultures and beliefs,
20 from many occupations, from no occupation at all to university
21 professors, from psychiatrist and professionals to oilfield
22 service and cooks. We have business managers, restaurant
23 owners, laborers, truck drivers and other occupations.

24 Please remember that who you are is not what you do.
25 Who you are is what you believe and what you give. Give your

1 best to this country and this country will give its best to
2 you. Thank you again for the enrichment that you bring to this
3 great land of ours.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: I would like to thank again
6 the participation of the various patriotic organizations. We
7 have a tea hosted by the VFW 1881 Auxiliary and the VFW 1443
8 Auxiliary. I would invite the representatives from those
9 organizations to please stand and be recognized and thanked.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: The tea today will be in the
12 grand jury room which is that way, and so you can go to the
13 tea, if you wish, through the back doors of the courtroom here.

14 Please feel free to linger in the courtroom, take
15 pictures, come stand by the flag or embrace your family and
16 come up and say hello to me and the court -- Judge Rankin and
17 the court staff as well. We will be here for a while, and then
18 we will come over to welcome you at the tea.

19 If you need help finding the grand jury room, I'm sure
20 that somebody from the clerk's office will point you in the
21 right direction.

22 Judge Rankin, is there anything further, any other
23 business that we should address?

24 CHIEF MAGISTRATE RANKIN: Nothing further. Thank you,
25 Your Honor.

1 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: All right. This concludes
2 the naturalization ceremony. Again, welcome and thank you for
3 participating.

4 (Applause.)

5 (Ceremonial proceedings concluded
6 10:50 a.m., July 9, 2012.)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I, JANET DAVIS, Federal Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, a Registered Merit Reporter and Federal Certified Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported by machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings contained herein on the aforementioned subject on the date herein set forth, and that the foregoing pages constitute a full, true and correct transcript.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2012.

/s/ Janet Davis



JANET DAVIS
United States Court Reporter
Registered Merit Reporter
Federal Certified Realtime Reporter