

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING
3

4 In the Matter of the
5 Naturalization and Granting of
6 United States Citizenship to:

Cheyenne, Wyoming
July 13, 2015
1:30 p.m.

7 Nhu Quhn Truong, Blanca Estela
8 Dominguez, Sujie Zhang, Dennis
9 Anthony Lee, Melinda Laura
10 Varju, Azanet Patricia
11 Robertson, Njam Josephine Ndum,
12 Noel Kipkosgel Limo, Nina Eva
13 Elizabeth Brehm, Lani Lynn Amit
14 Simonsen, Eddie Cyrus White,
15 Catalina Nava Miller, Deborah
16 Pamela Mathew, Iris Carolina
17 Estrada, Reshmi Lalchand Singh,
18 Arsenio Lemus Frausto, Denis
19 Granville Hilton, Cyndi
20 Yuanhuipang Balich, Laidry Arian
21 Cegui Mouelet Nguimbi,
22 Lyubov Kurnosova, Douglas Mosese
23 Vahai, Beverly Bruce Erickson,
24 Cruz Marisela Perea Salinas,
25 Irrina Abaeva Johnson,

Joseph C. O'Mahoney
Federal Courthouse

Petitioners.

18 TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING ON PETITIONS FOR
19 UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

20 BEFORE THE HONORABLE ALAN B. JOHNSON
21 United States District Judge, Presiding
22 THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN
23 Chief United States Magistrate Judge
24 THE HONORABLE GREGORY A. PHILLIPS
25 Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge

1 APPEARANCES:

2

3 For the Government: MARK A. KLAASSEN
4 Assistant United States Attorney
5 DISTRICT OF WYOMING
6 Cheyenne, WY 82001

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1 (Proceedings commenced 1:30 p.m., July 13, 2015.)

2 JUDGE JOHNSON: I'm sorry that you have the second
3 team here today in that our chief judge, Nancy D. Freudenthal,
4 is not present to welcome you to this, her courtroom, where she
5 presides.

6 My name is Alan Johnson. I'm a district judge here
7 for the District of Wyoming.

8 And on my left, on your right, I want to introduce
9 Gregory Phillips. Gregory Phillips is our representative for
10 Wyoming on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals which is the
11 appellate court which hears appeals from this court and other
12 district courts in the Tenth Circuit.

13 And on my right, and your left, is Chief Magistrate
14 Judge Kelly Rankin who serves this court not only in protecting
15 the exclusive enclaves of federal jurisdiction within the
16 state, but also really is the first person that most litigants
17 before this court meet.

18 And to our soon-to-be citizens, we are so proud of
19 each of you. We see the true spirit of America and see a bit
20 of ourselves in you because of our stories that trace back to
21 moments just like this one, to an ancestor, who just like the
22 men and women here today, made the deliberate choice to become
23 citizens of this great nation.

24 Dwight Eisenhower said, "The proudest human that walks
25 the earth is a free American citizen." And we hope that you

1 will soon have that status.

2 I want to mention that there's certainly a lot of
3 folks here carrying cameras. The normal rules of court that
4 prohibit photography within this courtroom are suspended. You
5 should feel free to move about and create a record for your
6 friend or family member who is going through this citizenship
7 process today.

8 And I wanted also to remind you, each and every one,
9 that everyone is invited to stay for refreshments following
10 this ceremony. Refreshments today are provided by the
11 Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Court extends its
12 thanks and appreciation to them for providing refreshments and
13 for their participation in this ceremony.

14 In addition, we are going to enjoy the vocal talents
15 of the All City Children's Choir under the direction of Mary
16 Ann Fritz.

17 Mark Klaassen is an Assistant United States Attorney
18 for the District of Wyoming.

19 Mr. Klaassen, will you call the roll of the citizens
20 to be naturalized.

21 And each of you, as your name is called, will you
22 please stand and remain standing.

23 MR. KLAASSEN: Thank you. Good afternoon, Your Honor.
24 Judge Rankin, Judge Phillips, Judge Johnson, may it please the
25 Court. I'm here today appearing as a representative of the

1 United States Attorney's Office for the District of Wyoming and
2 on behalf of the Attorney General of the United States in these
3 proceedings. It is my privilege to introduce to the Court the
4 following individuals who appear in person for a hearing on
5 their petitions for naturalization as United States citizen.

6 I want to apologize in advance to all of you. I'm
7 going to try my very best with these names, but forgive me if I
8 mispronounce your name.

9 Nhu Quhnh Truong of Vietnam, Blanca Estela Dominguez,
10 Mexico; Sujie Zhang, People's Republic of China; Dennis Anthony
11 Lee, Jamaica; Melinda Laura Varju, Hungary; Azanet Patricia
12 Robertson, Mexico; Njam Josephine Ndum, Cameroon; Noel
13 Kipkosgel Limo, Kenya; Nina Eva Elizabeth Brehm, United
14 Kingdom; Lynn Amit Simonsen, Philippines; Eddie Cyrus White,
15 St. Lucia; Catalina Nava Miller, Mexico; Deborah Pamela Mathew,
16 Canada; Iris Carolina Estrada, El Salvador; Reshmi Singh,
17 India; Arsenio Frausto, Mexico; Denis Granville Hilton, Canada;
18 Cyndi Yuanhuipang Balich, People's Republic of China; Lyubov
19 Kurnosova, Ukraine; Douglas Vahai, Tonga; Beverly Bruce
20 Erickson, Canada; Cruz Marisela Perea Salinas, Mexico; and
21 Irrina Abaeva Johnson, Russia.

22 Each of these individuals has been interviewed and
23 examined under oath by a designated examiner of the United
24 States Citizenship and Immigration Services which has completed
25 a character and background investigation. CIS indicates that

1 each of these individuals has met all requirements for
2 naturalization and is well qualified as a desirable candidate
3 for United States citizenship.

4 As a fellow citizen, I want to welcome and
5 congratulate each and every one of you on this important day
6 and this special occasion, and so on the recommendation of the
7 immigration officer it is my honor to move that these
8 petitioners be granted United States citizenship upon taking
9 oath. Thank you, Your Honor.

10 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Klaassen.

11 Do we have a representative of the Immigration &
12 Naturalization Service here today? Please introduce yourself.

13 MR. KOENIGSBERG: Scott Koenigsberg, supervisor from
14 the Denver Field Office.

15 JUDGE JOHNSON: Mr. Koenigsberg, thank you for your
16 presence today and making the trip up from Denver to be present
17 and to encourage this special ceremony.

18 I want to mention, I hope all of you have a copy of
19 the program for today's ceremony. On the second page of that
20 program is a copy of the oath that is about to be administered
21 to each of the citizens. So I would urge all of you who are
22 citizens by birth to read along as this oath is administered.
23 It is an excellent reminder of the burdens and duties that each
24 citizen takes upon themselves as part of their citizenship. Of
25 course, those who are born in the United States are qualified

1 without this kind of ceremony take these requirements for
2 granted.

3 I would ask that each of the applicants for
4 citizenship please raise their right hand and be prepared to
5 repeat after me.

6 I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and
7 entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any
8 foreign prince, or potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or
9 which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen. That I will
10 support and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United
11 States of America, against all enemies, foreign and domestic,
12 that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same. That I
13 will bear arms, on behalf of the United States, when required
14 by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the
15 armed forces of the United States when required by law. That I
16 will perform work of national importance under the civil
17 direction when required by the law; and that I will take this
18 obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of
19 evasion, so help me God.

20 Congratulations to each one of you. You may put your
21 hands down. You have all taken the ancient oath of new
22 applicants for citizenship.

23 Please be seated.

24 Chief, Judge Rankin, would you lead us in the Pledge
25 of Allegiance at this time.

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2 (God Bless America performed by members of the
3 All City Children's Choir.)

4 (Applause.)

5 THE COURT: I'm pleased to announce that I've signed
6 the naturalization petitions that have been recommended,
7 granting the motion that was presented here by Mr. Klaassen,
8 and in addition have signed the order that makes the name
9 changes as requested by the applicants.

10 I note that we have one late arrival, Mr. Klaassen.

11 MR. KLAASSEN: Yes, Your Honor, if I could, I would
12 request that that name also be added to the list of petitioners
13 for naturalization here today.

14 JUDGE JOHNSON: Motion is granted.

15 MR. KLAASSEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 (Laidry Arian Cegui Mouelet Nguimbi recognized on motion,
17 having been present for the administration of the oath.)

18 JUDGE JOHNSON: We have a special announcement from
19 the President of the United States, so if you will watch the
20 screens that are in front of you.

21 PRESIDENT OBAMA: It is an honor and a privilege to
22 call you a fellow citizen of the United States of America.
23 This is now officially your country, your home to protect, to
24 defend and to serve through active and engaged citizenship.
25 Together, we are a nation united not by any one culture or

1 ethnicity or ideology, but by the principles of opportunity,
2 equality and liberty that are enshrined in our founding
3 documents.

4 Today marks a very special day in your life. You've
5 traveled a long path to get here. You've sworn a solemn oath
6 to this country and now have all the rights of citizenship.

7 With the privilege of citizenship, though, come great
8 responsibilities, and so I ask that you use your freedoms and
9 your talents to contribute to the good of our nation and the
10 world.

11 Always remember that in America no dream is
12 impossible. Like the millions of immigrants who have come
13 before you, you have the opportunity to enrich this country
14 through your contributions to civic society, business, culture,
15 and your community. You can help write the next great chapter
16 in our American story, and together we can keep the beacon that
17 is America burning bright for all the world to see.

18 I'm proud to welcome you as a new citizen of this
19 country. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the
20 United States of America.

21 JUDGE JOHNSON: Will the clerk please present the
22 certificates of citizenship?

23 Thank you, I think you can be seated now.

24 We have a tradition here that has gone on for longer
25 than mind of man can remember where these wonderful patriotic

1 organizations have maintained an interest at these special
2 meetings that we gather to acknowledge the sacrifices and
3 deliberation that has gone into becoming a citizen of this
4 great country, to celebrate it and receive proper recognition.
5 So we thank these patriotic organizations for the work that
6 they do and their effort to recognize those who are new
7 citizens and bring new ideas and energy to this nation.

8 Presenting the American flag is VFW Auxiliary -- VFW
9 1881 Auxiliary, Diana Shinneman and Carol Tabor.

10 Presenting the American Flag Code will be VFW 4343
11 Auxiliary. Mary Lou Lynn will be present to do that. Thank
12 you, Mary Lou.

13 A Star-Spangled Banner booklet will be presented by
14 the Colonial Dames XVII Century and Van Mellblom. Thank you.

15 The Wyoming Constitution will be presented by the
16 Colonial Dames of America, Ibbey Davis and Claire Davis, the
17 Davis twins. Teasing.

18 U.S. Constitution presented by the American Legion
19 Post No. 6 Auxiliary, Eva Moore, Bernice Gertsch.

20 And the hostesses for the tea, Daughters of the
21 American Revolution, are Lonnie Weaver, Susie Murphy, Judy
22 Engelhart and Pam Imig.

23 Ladies, you may make your presentations.

24 (Presentations by patriotic organizations.)

25 JUDGE JOHNSON: I'm going to go ahead with the next

1 presentations. Naturally, United States senators and our lone
2 representative to Congress have a great interest in these
3 proceedings and wish to make presentations today. So we would
4 like to hear from United States Senator Mike Enzi, the junior
5 United States Senator John Barrasso, and from our Congressman
6 Cynthia Lummis. I think both Senator Enzi and Senator Barrasso
7 were back here for the 125th celebration, the 125th year of
8 statehood for our great state of Wyoming. Thank you.

9 (Presentations by congressional offices.)

10 THE COURT: I think we're going to need in the future
11 to present briefcases as well to carry away all of the mementos
12 that you receive.

13 Our thank-you goes to the representatives of our
14 congressional officers.

15 It has been a tradition as well in these proceedings
16 to invite a special guest speaker to come, and we are
17 distinctly honored today to have with us a Supreme Court
18 Justice from the Wyoming Supreme Court.

19 Kate M. Fox was appointed to the Wyoming Supreme Court
20 by Governor Matt Mead and was sworn in to that office on
21 January 24th, 2014. Before her appointment, Justice Fox was in
22 private practice with the law firm of Davis and Cannon. She
23 joined that firm after serving a one-year clerkship as a law
24 clerk for Federal District Court Judge Clarence A. Brimmer. So
25 we saw Justice Fox around the hallways and offices of this

1 building and were blessed with her presence during that time.

2 She received her Juris Doctor degree with honors from
3 the University of Wyoming School of Law and her B.A., Bachelor
4 of Arts, with honors from the University of Wyoming.

5 After completing high school in the East, Justice Fox
6 worked on her family's dude ranch near Dubois, Wyoming. She
7 edited a small town newspaper and a restaurant magazine and was
8 a -- she admits this -- a ski bum for several years before
9 going to law school.

10 She graduated from the University of Wyoming College
11 of Law in 1989 at the top of her class. She was
12 editor-in-chief of the Land and Water Law Review and was
13 inducted into Order of the Coif, a distinct honor society.

14 She has had a varied practice with an emphasis in
15 litigation, employment law, natural resources law. She
16 represented several Wyoming municipalities, defending them in
17 civil rights actions as well as various tort cases. She also
18 had extensive administrative law experience and has written
19 several Law Review articles on employment law and water law.

20 Justice Fox has two children and enjoys the outdoors
21 whenever she can. Again, we're very honored to have Kate Fox
22 be our special speaker today. Justice Fox.

23 (Applause.)

24 JUSTICE FOX: Thank you, Judge Johnson. I don't have
25 anything to give you, but I am honored to join in welcoming you

1 as my fellow Americans. I know that you've worked very hard to
2 get here. I see families, friends, children, and I'm sure that
3 their support was also important to you to achieve this goal.
4 So congratulations to all of you.

5 Each new immigrant to the United States brings unique
6 contributions to our culture. In this room we have new
7 citizens from 17 different countries, from Cameroon to China,
8 and closer at hand, from Mexico and Canada. I wish, Daughters
9 of the American Republic, that we had a potluck afterwards with
10 dishes from all the nations that you represent.

11 You are now part of this country's history and view,
12 and your children will be part of this country's future.

13 Each year in the United States there are approximately
14 680,000 naturalized citizens, and with each new citizen the
15 fabric of our nation becomes richer and stronger. We Americans
16 do not fear difference; we celebrate it. Our diversity is a
17 source of strength and renewal. I see in this room a great
18 infusion of new American strength and growth.

19 Americans come from every part of the globe, and we
20 speak every language on earth. In 50 states and 300 million
21 people we're still dedicated to the concept of e pluribus unum;
22 out of many, one. My own ancestors were Quakers who left
23 England to escape religious persecution, and then several
24 generations later we left Philadelphia to escape a rigid
25 society and came to Wyoming.

1 You, too, have chosen Wyoming as your home in the
2 United States of America, at least I hope so, because we could
3 use a little more diversity here and we need you. I think in
4 many ways you will find that Wyoming has some of the very best
5 attributes of what America has to offer.

6 We ask all our citizens, as the President did in his
7 address, to exercise the rights and obligations that come with
8 citizenship: To stay informed and respect your neighbors, to
9 express yourselves and to become active participants in
10 democracy, and to vote.

11 Here in Wyoming, because we're still a young state and
12 because we have such a small population, you have much greater
13 access to all of those types of civic engagement. You can call
14 your Wyoming senator or their representative sitting here, and
15 you will have a chance to talk to hem about the issues that
16 concern you. You can go to the office of the governor or the
17 mayor, and they will meet with you. You can arrange to go to
18 city council meetings and to be heard. You can organize your
19 neighbors to talk about the potholes in your street or you can
20 attend the legislature's meetings and be heard on issues
21 ranging from the schools for your children to workplace safety.

22 In Wyoming, you can speak and you can be part of our
23 governance, and it is important that you do.

24 You can even run for those offices, and you can be the
25 ones who help make those decisions. And you can encourage your

1 children to do the same. Wyoming is a great place to exercise
2 your rights as an American. And I encourage you to take
3 advantage of that.

4 Our democracy requires each of us to participate every
5 day in order to keep it strong. When we become apathetic and
6 fail to engage in the process, the wrong people come to power
7 for the wrong reasons. It is up to each of us to keep informed
8 and to keep asking questions.

9 I want to talk to you especially about the
10 opportunities that you have to participate in the judicial
11 process, one of our three branches, and because I'm a judge,
12 one that's especially dear to my heart.

13 You may be called now as American citizens to serve on
14 a jury. And there's never a convenient time to take away from
15 your work or your family and go sit in a jury box like this one
16 and make difficult decisions, but you should do it. You should
17 do it because you'll learn something, because it is part of
18 your obligation as a citizen to contribute to act as a jury and
19 to think about the fact that if it was you or someone you care
20 about who was a party in the trial, that you would want a jury
21 of your peers. So be part of it. Our jury system depends on
22 each of you doing your part.

23 And remember also that the courts are for you. The
24 courts are open to the public. This one here, the court where
25 I work across the street towards the Capitol, the Wyoming

1 Supreme Court and all the district and circuit courts in the
2 state of Wyoming are public institutions where you can go and
3 you can see what happens.

4 Also -- now I know you have a copy of the Wyoming
5 Constitution. There's a provision in it that does not appear
6 in the United States Constitution. It says that all courts
7 shall be open and every person for an injury done to person,
8 reputation or property shall have justice administered without
9 sale, denial or delay." What that means is you get to go to
10 court to have your rights protected or defended if that's what
11 you want to do. They are open for you.

12 We know that, and I know you know, the streets of
13 America are not paved with gold. But they are paved with
14 opportunity, and with that opportunity comes the duty to
15 participate in the political process, to vote, to serve on a
16 jury, and to pay taxes. I hope that you will continue to work
17 as hard as you have in order to make the United States the
18 country that you hoped to find when you got here.

19 I welcome you all as citizens of the United States of
20 America, and I thank you for the enrichment that you will bring
21 to our country and to the state of Wyoming. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 (America, The Beautiful performed by members of the
24 All City Children's Choir.)

25 (Applause.)

1 JUDGE JOHNSON: Chief Magistrate Judge Rankin, do you
2 have a few words of wisdom for us?

3 JUDGE PHILLIPS: Thank you, Judge.

4 First of all, congratulations and welcome. You are
5 now all Americans. What a long road I'm sure it has been for
6 you and your families and friends, hopefully many of whom that
7 are with us today. I'm sure it has also been a struggle at
8 times, leaving your homeland, saying good-bye to beloved
9 friends and family, traveling to this country, finding a job, a
10 home, adjusting to a new culture and a new way of life.

11 But the good news for us is the best of your culture
12 and way of life is the best of ours and your traditions enrich
13 not only your family; they enrich America. Always remember
14 that this country was founded on the diversity of many tribes,
15 countries and cultures. We have been blessed by the rich
16 culture and traditions of so many people like you and those
17 that came before you.

18 America is a combination of the best of everyone who
19 comes here. This great country depends on new citizens such as
20 you to learn and grow. Our survival depends on the values of
21 diversity, tolerance, dignity and respect that we live by and
22 teach each other.

23 Our very first president, George Washington,
24 recognized the importance of immigrants to our land, not just
25 the rich and high-ranking newcomer, but the oppressed and

1 persecuted of all nations and religions whom we shall welcome
2 to a participation in all our rights and privileges.

3 Being a United States citizen also means that you are
4 free. The Constitution and laws of this country are designed
5 to protect your freedom. You are free to think on your own and
6 to form your own opinions. And you may voice those opinions
7 whether many people or few people agree with you. You are free
8 to work where you want to work, to read what you want to read,
9 to say what you want to say. You are free to believe what you
10 want to believe, to openly practice any religion or not
11 practice any religion at all.

12 There is no single American way to think or believe.
13 As a citizen of the United States you are free to follow your
14 own path, wherever it may lead you. But with that freedom
15 comes responsibility. The freedom of democracy comes with the
16 responsibility to participate, as urged by Justice Fox, in our
17 democratic process by voting and not casually or carelessly,
18 but in a way that is thoughtful and informed.

19 You have a responsibility to educate yourself so you
20 make good choices for yourself, for your family and this
21 country that is now your country. This democracy so hard
22 fought for only works when its people participate fully by
23 helping to choose who will govern us all, and by taking that
24 process seriously.

25 The freedom of democracy also carries a responsibility

1 to your community and to your country. You must be willing to
2 serve this country as you can. Use your talents. Be active in
3 your communities. Give back to your new country through civic
4 participation and service.

5 And I'm sure all of you have someone here in this room
6 who has helped you come here and complete this process, perhaps
7 a friend, a teacher, a sponsor. Maybe they are here with you
8 today. Maybe they are not. But as you celebrate your new
9 citizenship, make sure you let them know how much they have
10 meant to you and perhaps a wonderful way to honor them for
11 their service to you is to reach out and give a hand to someone
12 else that may need your help. Your new country, our country,
13 will only continue to thrive if we care about our fellow
14 citizens as human beings.

15 Again, congratulations and welcome. You have worked
16 incredibly hard to earn your new citizenship, and I know I
17 speak for all of your Wyoming neighbors when I say we are
18 grateful to have you. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 JUDGE JOHNSON: Judge Phillips.

21 JUDGE PHILLIPS: Thank you, Judge Johnson.

22 And welcome to everyone. Congratulations. I also
23 extend that to you. And I've learned a little bit myself in
24 the process of what you go through and what you learn. And you
25 know a lot about America just from having gone through this,

1 and congratulations for that.

2 I've been a judge for a lesser time, certainly, than
3 Judge Johnson who I was his law clerk years ago in the 1980s
4 walking around these halls with Justice Fox, three decades ago.
5 And Judge Rankin also preceded me on the bench, so this is only
6 my fourth or fifth naturalization ceremony, but it is the
7 biggest by far and also by the diversity of where you all come
8 from. So it is a special day for all of us to see you, too.

9 In practicing law you occasionally get to talk with
10 judges and state court judges which tell me the favorite thing
11 about their job was doing adoption cases where a family was
12 coming in and adopting a child and making that child part of
13 their family.

14 And in federal circles, talking to federal judges
15 before I was appointed and confirmed to this job, what I heard
16 is their favorite part of the job were these naturalization
17 ceremonies. And it makes sense that those would be the same
18 because both of them are adopting either a child into the
19 family or a citizen in our country and love all around, fellow
20 citizen and family members.

21 Judge Johnson mentioned that during these ceremonies
22 we oftentimes look backwards, and it is so true because the
23 people who are responsible for our being citizens -- and we
24 didn't have to take the test. You went the hard way; we took
25 the easy way -- because of people that -- for instance, I never

1 got to know great-grandparents and maybe beyond that. But I
2 know that during these ceremonies I look back on them and I am
3 very grateful to them and wished that I got to know them
4 because through their hardships and their travels and their
5 travails, the blessings of liberty were bestowed on me for no
6 effort. And I have no doubt your descendants for some at least
7 will think the very same about you and wished they had known
8 you.

9 I know that the children here would like me to go on
10 and on because they don't want any sweets. They don't like
11 sweets or -- I shouldn't have said that word even. But I'll
12 just wrap it up by saying that we're a very strong country, as
13 you know, and we're even stronger today for your having joined
14 us as citizens. It is a real honor for me to be here with you
15 today. Thank you.

16 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, Judge Phillips.

17 (Applause.)

18 JUDGE JOHNSON: Once again, congratulations, new
19 citizens. Your decision to become citizens of the United
20 States of America and having taken the oath of allegiance today
21 serves to bind you and connect you to this most altruistic, or
22 caring, nation and the values that we share of life, liberty
23 and the pursuit of happiness.

24 By the oath freely taken today, prior allegiances to
25 other places and governments have been set aside. In time of

1 conflict or need, the duty of the citizen will henceforward be
2 to serve the United States of America. The status of being an
3 American means that each citizen has the duty to support and
4 defend the Constitution of the United States and the laws which
5 provide the rules of our government and guarantee our rights.

6 In order to effectively participate as a citizen we
7 share a duty to inform ourselves of the issues affecting our
8 lives and our community and to participate in our government.
9 As human beings, we are prone to make mistakes. However, in
10 America relations with one another, tolerance of racial, ethnic
11 and cultural difference should always be the standard. America
12 has been built by many different peoples working and living as
13 one. Americans are called upon to pay their taxes, state and
14 federal, and to honestly report their income.

15 They respond and serve when called to jury duty. And
16 in time of danger, Americans will step forward in many ways in
17 support of their nation. Each individual accepts
18 responsibility for the proper discharge of their duties as a
19 citizen, giving meaning each day to the oath of citizenship and
20 the Pledge of Allegiance.

21 In America we have the freedom to express ourselves,
22 to write, speak and read what our minds conceive, as citizens
23 free to worship and express his or her religious spirituality.

24 The courtroom in which we are sitting is a place where
25 persons accused of violating the criminal laws will be heard by

1 a jury composed of citizens and have the right to confront the
2 witnesses and the evidence against them in a public forum.

3 Each citizen votes at federal, state and local
4 elections and expresses herself or himself in an informal
5 manner guiding their precious vote -- informed manner.

6 You may seek federal employment, run for public office
7 and serve your fellows. The opportunities we receive from our
8 citizenship allows each of us equal opportunity to educate
9 children, to prepare for and seek meaningful occupations.

10 Liberty means more than unbridled will and liberty's
11 existence should not be solely dependent upon the Constitution,
12 law or the courts. The spirit of liberty rests within the
13 heart of each of us, performing the duties that we have as
14 citizens and caring for and considering the needs of others.

15 If this is the path we follow, then happiness, the
16 pleasure of our friends and successes of our families, the love
17 of this nation and its promise will be our shared destiny.

18 Best wishes to each of you and may the years ahead be
19 filled with success and happiness.

20 (Applause.)

21 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you for being here today to
22 share this largest ceremony we've had in this court for many
23 years. As I understand it, there's a few that have even been
24 down in courtroom No. 2 viewing the proceedings here by means
25 of video. And it shows to me the hunger and the interest that

1 we all share as this nation grows with these faces who will be
2 our fellows in every way as citizens of this great nation.

3 Thank you. We will stand in recess.

4 (Proceedings concluded 2:33 p.m., July 13, 2015.)

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