

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

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

-----  
IN THE MATTER OF THE  
NATURALIZATION AND GRANTING OF  
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO: Cheyenne, Wyoming  
July 18, 2016  
10:00 a.m.

CRISOSTOMO FIGUEROA ALMA JOSE,  
PRABHAKAR MANEKLAL PATEL, YUN XIE,  
RONGSONG LIU, JUDY LYNN JUENGEL,  
EKATERINA YARUNOVA GOTTSHALL,  
NILCEIA APARECIDA ANCHIETA,  
MD ANOWARUL ISLAM, JESMIN AKTER BANU,  
WENYANG MAO DONEHUE, BILE NOOR ADULLE,  
ELENA ANATOLIYIVNA BRIGGS,

Petitioners.

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

BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY D. FREUDENTHAL  
Chief United States District Judge, Presiding  
THE HONORABLE ALAN B. JOHNSON  
United States District Judge  
THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN PARKER  
United States Bankruptcy Judge

APPEARANCES:

For the UNITED STATES: C. LEVI MARTIN  
Assistant United States Attorney  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
2120 Capitol Avenue, Suite 4000  
P.O. Box 668  
Cheyenne, WY 82003-0668

Court Reporter: MRS. JANET DAVIS, RDR, FCRR  
United States Court Reporter  
2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2228  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001  
(307) 635-3884

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript  
produced with computer.

(Proceedings commenced 10:05 a.m., July 18, 2016.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Well, as we open this naturalization ceremony today the 18th day of July, 2016, let me make a few introductions and just a few preliminary comments.

My name is Nancy Freudenthal. I'm the Chief Judge for the District of Wyoming. To my left is Judge Alan Johnson. To my right is our Chief Bankruptcy Judge, Casey Parker.

Today is a day of celebration and, as such, we will waive the typical rule against cameras in the courtroom, so feel free to take photographs. If it works out well for you, feel free to come through the swinging door to take even better photographs. This is a day of celebration and a day of recognition for our newly naturalized citizens.

However, I do want to begin with a more somber thought and ask for a minute a prayer and reflection. These are turbulent, difficult times. We've had too many victims of attacks and senseless murder and death. I would like to take a moment for prayer and reflection and recognition and reflection on the victims of the Nice attack, the officer shootings in Dallas and Baton Rouge, also for their loved ones and those who care for them and for this

world that we may find peace, love, and compassion,  
not fear and worry and hatred in our diversity.

(Moment of silence.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you.

At this time on with the -- on with the  
celebration and recognition.

I would invite the Government, Mr. Martin,  
to provide a roll call of those citizens to be  
naturalized.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

Good morning. I'm here today as a representative of  
the United States Attorney's Office for the District  
of Wyoming and as proxy for the Attorney General of  
the United States. It is my privilege, Your Honor, to  
introduce to the Court the following individuals who  
appear in person for a hearing on their petitions for  
naturalization as United States citizens: Seated from  
bottom row left to right, then top row, left to right,  
we have Mr. Crisostomo Figueroa Alma Jose, a native  
and former inhabitant of the Philippines; Prabhakar  
Maneklal Patel, native and former inhabitant of India;  
Yun Xie, native and former inhabitant of the People's  
Republic of China; Rongsong Liu, also a native and  
former inhabitant of the People's Republic of  
China; and Judy Lynn Juengel, native and former

inhabitant of Canada; Ekaterina Yarunova Gottshall, native and former inhabitant of Russia; Nilceia Aparecida Anchieta, native and former inhabitant of Brazil; MD Anowarul Islam, native and former inhabitant of Australia; Jesmin Akter Banu, native and former inhabitant of Australia; Wenyang Mao Donehue, native and former inhabitant of the People's Republic of China; Bile Noor Adulle, native and former inhabitant of Somalia; Elena Anatoliyivna Briggs, native and former inhabitant of Ukraine.

Each of these individuals has been interviewed and examined under oath by a designated examiner from the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services who has completed their character and background investigations. The immigration officer indicates that each of these individuals has met all of the requirements for naturalization and are well qualified to be United States citizens.

As a fellow citizen of the United States, I want to wish you congratulations.

And without further ado and on the recommendation of the immigration officer, Your Honor, it is my distinct honor to move that each of these Petitioners be granted United States citizenship upon taking of the oath. Thank you.

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

And we're pleased to have with us today the supervising Immigration Services officer from Denver, Scott Koenigsberg.

Is there anything that you wish to say, Mr. Koenigsberg, as a supplement to the motion?

MR. KOENIGSBERG: Only to offer my congratulations here to everyone on their accomplishments here today. We recognize it has been a very long road for all of you to get here today, and it is a great accomplishment that you have becoming United States citizens today.

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. Thank you very much for traveling up from Denver.

At this time I would invite the new citizens to rise to take the oath, if my colleagues would join as well.

Please raise your right hand. I, state your name, hereby declare on oath that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, or potentate, state or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America

against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law; and that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by law; that I will perform work of national importance under civil direction when required by law; and that I will -- and that I will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

Congratulations.

(Applause.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Please be seated. Well, actually, why don't we all rise to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: We're pleased to have with us today the Cheyenne Capital Quartet singing the Star-Spangled Banner. We have Barb Boyer, Dyan Burns, LuWanna DePorter and Sheila Green.

(Star-Spangled Banner performed.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you so much.

Now I would direct your attention to the large monitors in the courtroom for the President's

video.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: It is an honor and a privilege to call you a fellow citizen of the United States of America. This is now officially your country; your home to protect, to defend and to serve through active and engaged citizenship.

Together we are a nation united, not by any one culture or ethnicity or ideology, but by the principles of opportunity, equality and liberty that are enshrined in our founding documents.

Today marks a very special day in your life. You've traveled a long path to get here. You've sworn a solemn oath to this country and now have all the rights of citizenship. With the privilege of citizenship, though, come great responsibilities, and so I ask that you use your freedoms and your talents to contribute to the good of our nation and the world.

Always remember that in America no dream is impossible. Like the millions of immigrants who have come before you, you have the opportunity to enrich this country through your contributions to civic society, business, culture and your community.

You can help write the next great chapter in our American story. And together we can keep the beacon that is America burning bright for all the

world to see.

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

(Applause.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: At this time we're very pleased to have a guest speaker for the ceremony, Ms. Rita Meyer, who is joined with us -- who is joining us with her 2-year-old granddaughter. So -- I think many of us understand the importance of grandma duty.

Rita is the vice-president for Rocky Mountain Power for Wyoming. She was appointed to this position in January 2012. Rocky Mountain Power, as some of us know, they provide generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, and the company is part of Berkshire-Hathaway Energy.

Rita is no stranger to service. She's a highly decorated military veteran with service in both Iraq and Afghanistan. She's retired from the Wyoming Air National Guard as a full colonel in 2007.

Rita also served in a statewide elected position as Wyoming State Auditor from 2007 to 2011.

Rita earned her undergraduate degrees in education and finance from the University of Wyoming



in Laramie, Wyoming. She holds an MBA in International Business from Regis University in Denver, and an MS in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

She serves on the board of directors for Wyoming Public Broadcasting Service and directs patron development for Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum. She's a active volunteer in our community here in Cheyenne for the Safe House Women's and Children's Center and Saint Mary's Cathedral where she serves as a trustee.

Please join me in welcoming Rita Meyer.

(Applause.)

MS. MEYER: Yes, grandma duty is a priority.

Good morning. Thank you, Judge Freudenthal, for the privilege of being here today and for the honor of sharing my humble words with this most-esteemed audience.

What a special day it is, not only for those privileged to take the oath, but also to friends and family who are here with you and those who cannot be present but carry you in their thoughts and prayers.

There are many different paths to citizenship, and I know that each of you has an

incredible story to tell. I encourage you to do that, to tell your story, to share the unique path you have taken, to tell others why you chose to become a citizen of the United States of America. Sharing your path to citizenship with others is a validation of your very own citizenship. It is a responsibility that you carry with you as you leave your naturalization ceremony today.

In the religion that I practice, which is Roman Catholic, we have a term called "cradle Catholic." That means that someone was born into the faith. Sometimes when we are born into something, whether it be religious faith, wealth or citizenship, it is more difficult to appreciate what we have been given as a birthright because we haven't labored to attain the right and the benefits.

The United States of America is hurting today, perhaps because so many of us cradle citizens have forgotten or never fully appreciated what has made America one of the greatest countries in the world. Perhaps in our arrogance we have dismissed the important words of our Declaration of Independence or never fully understood or appreciated the worth of our Constitution.

While many of us wave the flag on some flag

holidays, perhaps we have forgotten that there are 25 of those flag holidays. Or maybe we don't remember the pain and suffering and hope that is symbolized in our flag's colors and design: That the red, white and blue colors express the very character of our nation; that the white in the flag symbolizes desire for liberty; that red signifies the courage and sacrifice of our nation's defenders; and blue is likened to the loyalty and unity of our citizens. Maybe we even stumble in remembering the second verse of our very own Star-Spangled Banner.

A civic lesson for Americans of all ages is long overdue. I see no greater teachers than those like you who have recently earned the privilege of becoming citizens of our great country.

Your intense desire to become a citizen is the kind of passion needed to reinvigorate and strengthen a civics lesson for cradle Americans who have become complacent in the bounty that a simple birthright has bestowed. You have earned and demonstrated the right and privilege to be an American citizen. You have each struggled in your own way and through unique and difficult circumstances. Sometimes I suspect the journey looked so overwhelming that the possibility of taking the oath of citizenship today

seemed almost an impossibility.

But here you are. What better teachers and leaders than each of you? What better teachers and leaders to help Americans see greatness in America again, greatness that is already here.

My ancestors came to America from England, Sweden and Denmark in the early 1600s. While historical records are fairly complete with records to who they were, when they migrated and where they settled, I have yet to find any personal words about why they came. I can only surmise the why, given the history in those countries at the time my people came to America.

What I do know is that immigrants built up the United States from the very beginning and that this country was and continues to be a kaleidoscope of ethnic and cultural groups; that the United States has a history of opening its doors to welcome those seeking political and religious freedom as well as to the adventurer, the wanderer, the persecuted, the fortune seekers and others; people who seek to live in freedom, to practice religion freely, to escape poverty or oppression, and to make better lives for themselves and for their children, reasons that have remained unchanged over the course of this great

nation's existence.

Given the volatile political rhetoric today, it is important to remind ourselves that the only people who are not immigrants to the United States of America are those of pure Native American origin. That means that almost all of us are of immigrant descent.

While the face of immigrants in America is many, and the reasons immigrants seek life in America is varied, the contribution to the greatness of America continues with every new generation. Each of you now as citizens will grow in your capacity and capabilities to contribute, to improve the quality of life in America for yourselves and for others. Citizenship implies the status of freedom with accompanying responsibilities.

Today is your call to action. You are called to help lead and to teach Americans to understand and to see the greatness in America.

May God bless all of you, and your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you very much, Rita. Thanks for joining us.

At this time I would like to invite the first row of our new citizens out of the jury box. We'll hand out your certificates. If the Judges would join me.

We have more presentations. We have various members of our patriotic organizations here. We have the American Legion No. 6 Auxiliary who will be providing tea after the ceremony.

We have our Colonial Dames of America who are appropriately, given Rita Meyer's comments, presenting the American flag. We have Ibbey Davis and Claire Davis, if you would like to present the flags. Thank you very much.

We have the American Flag Code presented by the representatives of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century. If you would like to present the American Flag Code; we have Billie Neff, Van Mellblom and Judy Norman.

The United States Constitution will be presented by representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Citizens Almanac will be presented by representatives of the VFW 1881 Auxiliary.

And the Star-Spangled Banner booklet will be presented by representatives of the VFW 4343

Auxiliary.

We also are pleased to have letters from our two United States Senators, Senator Mike Enzi and Senator John Barrasso, in addition to our House of Representatives member, Cynthia Lummis. Their office is also represented by staff members who will be handing out letters. Thank you so much for being here representing our delegation.

Thank you. We will hear another performance by the Cheyenne Capital Quartet, America The Beautiful.

(America The Beautiful performed.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. That was just lovely.

At this time I would invite my colleague, Judge Parker, to make a few remarks of congratulations to our citizens.

JUDGE PARKER: Thank you, Judge Freudenthal. And thank you to all of those that helped these individuals get here today and supported their endeavors to become United States citizens.

But, more importantly, congratulations to you in becoming United States citizens. And thank you for letting me be a part of this. It truly is an honor for me to be here.

There are no words that can adequately express the sacrifice you made in getting here nor express how proud people are of your accomplishments.

Your oath that you took today -- that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same -- this is a very powerful statement, a statement that only a portion of United States citizens are ever given the privilege to make. Someone born a U.S. Citizen may never get to swear out this statement. You are making the same allegiance the President of the United States makes when he is sworn in, a U.S. Senator makes when he was sworn in, a federal judge or a brave member of the military who is deciding to defend the freedoms of this country and risk his life -- his or her life.

America, the land of the free, freedom to choose your path in life, to form and express opinions, to educate yourself, to be part of the decision-making, to practice of religion of your choosing. But as the President said, with freedom comes responsibility.

Having gone through this process, you, more than many current United States citizens, are in touch



with the history and ideologies of our founding fathers, the spirit of the United States. Use this knowledge and use the strongest tool that citizenship provides you and vote. As Ms. Meyer commented, it is easy for us to take for granted what we can have and do in the United States. We all have an obligation to make this a better place to live.

You've already shown your commitment to this through this process, a process that requires dedication and tenacity. Don't stop here. Take your commitment, your drive, your pride and make us better. You had to study and learn America's history, the way of life for the United States, but your way of life, your culture and your experience can enhance all of our lives. The only way for this to happen, though, is for you to become involved, take advantage, use your leadership and your strength to assist the citizens of Wyoming and the United States.

I say this to everyone here: Pay it forward. Someone helped you get to this point, whether it was a small way or an instrumental way. It is now your turn to be that inspiration or guiding hand to another.

I hope for the people here today, that the ceremony reminds us that the United States was built

on diversity; that diversity makes us a stronger nation; that our tolerance to allow people their freedom to express their views, their religion, their beliefs is the underpinning and strength of this nation, the freedoms these new citizens worked so hard to attain. If we allow our tolerances to wane, so will our strength as a nation.

Again, congratulation. Your dedication to this process demonstrates great things to come for all of you.

(Applause.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Parker.

Judge Johnson, I would invite comments.

JUDGE JOHNSON: Chief Judge Freudenthal, thank you so much. It is an honor to be here in a free courtroom in the United States of America today with you to celebrate this happy moment in your lives. And it is a tribute to each of you for your accomplishment in what is represented here today, that you have a full courtroom of family and friends as well as interested citizens who are supporting you and want to know and celebrate this important event in your life.

This truly is an amazing moment in your

lives and changes them forever as you take on the duties and burdens and responsibilities of citizenship.

We must be mindful of the refugee catastrophe that is unfolding in our world today as families and individuals seek liberty, freedom from oppression, freedom from want, freedom to express individual opinions, beliefs, cultures and religions.

We are also mindful of the misguided few who use deadly violence to attack the rule of law represented by this very courtroom and system of justice that we defend and are so honored to participate in.

Each of our new citizens is, indeed, a member of a special group. There are approximately 13,500,000 lawful permanent residents living in the United States of America today - lawful permanent residents. They include students studying in America's colleges and universities; persons who have found asylum here and millions who have come seeking employment and have been issued green cards.

8,000,000 of these lawful residents are eligible to seek citizenship as each of you have done. Approximately 4,500,000 persons are not presently eligible for citizenship for various reasons,

including the lengthy waiting period required by law.

Each of our citizens who have taken the oath today are, indeed, special for they have endured the sacrifices, the waiting, the testing necessary and have made their own reasoned decisions that have led to make this dream come true for them and the certificate that each of them holds in their hands today.

The oath given today is an oath to support the ideas of freedoms of the Constitution and laws of the United States, not a person or place. Prior allegiances to other governments and kings have been set aside. In time of war or national need, the duty of the citizen will henceforward be to serve the United States of America.

The status of being an American means that each citizen has the duty to support the laws which guarantee our rights. We share a duty to inform ourselves of the issues affecting our lives, our communities and our nation. We should express our views by voting or even seeking public office.

In America we have the freedom to express ourselves, to write, speak and read what our minds conceive. The citizen is free to worship and express his or her spirituality. The courtrooms of America

are places where persons accused of violating the criminal laws will be heard by juries composed of citizens and by you, as citizens, and where disputes between citizens are resolved under the rule of law with an opportunity to be heard without regard to personal wealth or status. I wish every citizen could visit the courts of this land and educate themselves about what transpires here.

I will leave you today with these thoughts from Learned Hand, a United States Judge who spoke at a ceremony like this one. However, the ceremony in New York City occurred in the midst of World War II and that naturalization ceremony was attended by a much larger audience than we have here today.

Judge Hand spoke these words about our precious liberty. I think the words are as relevant today as they were during that perilous period and the threat to our freedoms that existed then: "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women. When it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it. No constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it. But it lies there in the hearts of men and women. It needs no constitution, no law, no court to save it.

"And what is this liberty which must lie in

the hearts of men and women? It is not the ruthless, unbridled will. It is not freedom to do as one likes. That is the denial of liberty and leads straight to its overthrow. What, then, is the spirit of liberty? I cannot define it. I can only tell you my own faith. The spirit of liberty is a spirit which is not too sure that it is right. The spirit of liberty is a spirit which seeks to understand the minds of other men and women. The spirit of liberty is a spirit that weighs their interest alongside its own without bias. The spirit of liberty remembers that not even a sparrow falls to earth unheeded."

Judge Hand's words seem good ones for both new and old citizens to consider as we go forward together. Congratulations to each of you.

(Applause.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge.

Well, I'll add my voice to the words of congratulations by Rita Meyer, my colleagues, the members of our patriotic organizations and staff for our delegation. Congratulations. I know that this has been a long road for each of you and a lot of work, a lot of patience and a lot of help from those people whom you love in the audience.

When I read the oath which Judge Johnson pointed out on the back of this pamphlet, I would like to point out for your particular attention that these new citizens, when they were introduced by our Assistant United States Attorney, he introduced each of these as former subjects and citizens of the countries listed on the brochure: Philippines, India, China, Canada, Russia, Brazil, Australia, Somalia and Ukraine.

We ask these new citizens before they can become our citizens, become Americans, to renounce their former government, their former princes, potentates, sovereignties. That's a tough pill to swallow for someone who was a subject and citizen to be asked to renounce and to accept.

Importantly, we never ask our new citizens to renounce their culture, their love, their history, their language that they bring from their countries. Cherish that always. You enrich us with that culture, with that language, with your voices, with your food, with your heritage. Again, preserve it always. It is a diversity that adds much to the fabric of the United States of America.

For over 200 years this country has been blessed by citizens coming from other countries

renouncing those countries and accepting the sovereignty of the United States of America. Those people brought their languages, their cultural values, their heritage. Again, today it is you who bless us by the richness that you add to our tapestry.

Now, as United States citizens, which you are today, there are some points that I would like to make. In this country today you hear many voices. Some of those voices talk about what is true and what's right as though there were only one true and right way to think and to believe, so you may hear voices that say that there's only one true American religion. Don't believe it. As an American, you can practice any religion freely and openly, whether it be Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist or Muslim. You may adhere to any of these, any of others or none at all.

You hear some voices in this country talking about one true American way to think or believe about social, political or economic matters. That idea is against our American value. As an American, you can freely and openly adhere to political, social and economic views on the right, on the left or anywhere in between.

Some people say there are only one true set of values. Again, this runs contrary to the American



way of life. You can openly hold your beliefs and values, even if they are not shared by anyone else. So there's no single American way to think or believe. Conformity of thought and belief is contrary to the underlying principles of this great nation.

Felix Frankfurter, a Justice of the United States Supreme Court, came to this country from Austria in 1894. He was just 12 years old when he became a naturalized citizen. He went on to become a Supreme Court justice. He stated that in this country the highest office is citizen. You each have assumed that high office and your office, like other offices, has not only privileges but duties.

You have the duty to be informed, to participate in the political process, the duty to vote, the duty to bear arms when required by law, the duty to serve on a jury, and yes, the duty to pay taxes. You also have a duty to make this country, the United States of America, the country that you hoped to find and that you want it to be.

I welcome you as new citizens to this high office with all its privileges, rights and duties. And thank you. Thank you in advance for the enrichment that you bring to this fabric. Congratulations and best wishes.

(Applause.)

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Is there other business to bring to this proceeding before we recess and join the citizens and their families? Judge.

JUDGE JOHNSON: I can't think of anything, Your Honor.

JUDGE PARKER: Nothing.

CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Tammy, nothing at your end?

All right. We will stand in recess until call.

Please join us for the tea. We will be here in the courtroom for photographs as well if you would like to take advantage of any of those. Again, the tea is hosted, I believe, by the -- let's see, I probably have lost -- the American Legion. So thank you very much to our hostesses. We will stand in recess.

(Proceedings concluded 11:02 a.m., July 15, 2016.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JANET DAVIS, Federal Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, a Registered Diplomate 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, 2016.

*1st Janet Davis*

---

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