

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

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

5 ANDREI ALBU, NAVNEETA RAY, Cheyenne, Wyoming
6 ADRIAN FLUTURE, ADRIANA CARMEN November 6, 2017
7 FLUTURE, MELLY CAUBALEJO UDODONG, 10:09 a.m.
8 MENGH XU, VLADIMIR ALVARADO,
9 HUANG YUAN, MARTHA PATRICIA CHAVEZ,
10 and PATRICIA SOARES GIERAU,

11 Petitioners.

12 TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING ON PETITIONS FOR UNITED STATES
13 CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION PROCEEDINGS

14 BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY D. FREUDENTHAL
15 Chief United States District Judge, Presiding

16 THE HONORABLE ALAN B. JOHNSON
17 United States District Judge
18 THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN
19 Chief United States Magistrate Judge
20 THE HONORABLE GREGORY A. PHILLIPS
21 United States Court of Appeals Judge
22 THE HONORABLE CATHLEEN D. PARKER
23 United States Bankruptcy Judge

24 APPEARANCES:

25 For the UNITED STATES: NICK VASSALLO
 Assistant United States Attorney
 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
 2120 Capitol Avenue, Suite 4000
 P.O. Box 668
 Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-0668

26 Court Reporter: MONIQUE GENTRY, RPR, CSR
 Federal Official Court Reporter
 2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2228
 Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
 (307)274-4661/mkg.gentry@gmail.com

27 *Proceedings recorded by stenography; transcript produced with
28 computer-aided transcription.*

1 (Proceedings commenced at 10:09 a.m., November 6, 2017.)

2 CLERK OF THE COURT: All rise. Honorable United
3 States District Court for the District of Wyoming is now open
4 for the transaction of business sitting at Meadowlark
5 Elementary School, pursuant to adjournment: The Honorable
6 Nancy D. Freudenthal, Chief United States District Judge,
7 presiding; along with the Honorable Alan B. Johnson, United
8 States District Judge; the Honorable Gregory A. Phillips,
9 United States Circuit Judge; the Honorable Kelly H. Rankin,
10 Chief United States Magistrate Judge; and the Honorable
11 Cathleen D. Parker, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge.

12 All having business before this honorable court, draw
13 near, give attention and you shall be heard. God save the
14 United States of America and this honorable court.

15 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Welcome, I invite everyone
16 to remain standing for the National Anthem performed by the
17 Meadowlark orchestra, under the direction of Susan Brown and
18 Suzy Wagner.

19 (National Anthem was performed.)

20 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Please, be seated. We are
21 waiving local rule prohibiting the use of cameras. I am happy
22 to learn that we have some of our local media here in
23 attendance. Family members and others are welcome to take
24 photographs during this ceremony. At the outset, I would ask
25 for a moment of silence for the victims, both the deceased and

1 injured, of the church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

2 (Moment of silence.)

3 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you.

4 I would like to thank our host school Meadowlark
5 Elementary School, and I would like to particularly thank
6 Mr. Fraley, the principal, and the school administration for
7 making this ceremony possible and honoring and welcoming our
8 new citizens.

9 Let me make a few introductions, and then we'll move
10 on with the program. We have as introduced by our Clerk of
11 Court Stephan Harris, five judges here today. To my far right
12 your left is our Chief Magistrate Judge Kelly Rankin. To his
13 left is our Chief Bankruptcy Judge Casey Parker. Next to Casey
14 Parker is judge -- our District Judge Alan Johnson. Seated by
15 Judge Johnson is Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Gregory
16 Phillips, and I am Nancy Freudenthal.

17 Thank you and welcome to this great ceremony
18 welcoming our new citizens.

19 I'd ask for the roll call of citizens to be
20 naturalized to be read. Will that be read by you,
21 Mr. Vassallo?

22 AUSA VASSALLO: I will do that, Your Honor, as part
23 of my motion, if that is all right with the Court?

24 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: As part of the motion, we
25 will defer the roll call of citizens to be -- we are deferring

1 it to right now, I guess. Let's call for the motion for
2 naturalization and roll call of citizens.

3 The motion is by our Assistant U.S. Attorney
4 Nick Vassallo.

5 AUSA VASSALLO: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please
6 the Court?

7 My name is Nick Vassallo. As Judge Freudenthal just
8 mentioned, I am the Assistant United States Attorney. I am
9 here on behalf of the United States Attorney's Office for the
10 District of Wyoming and also on behalf of the Attorney General
11 of the United States.

12 It is my privilege to introduce the following
13 individuals who appear in person for a hearing on their
14 petitions for naturalization as United States citizens. As I
15 call each name, I would ask that the petitioner please stand:
16 Andrei Albu, Navneeta Ray, Adrian Fluture, Adriana Carmen
17 Fluture, Melly Caubalejo Udodong, Mengh XU, Vladimir Alvarado,
18 Shuang Yuan, Martha Patricia Chavez, and Patricia Soares
19 Gierau.

20 Each of these individuals has been interviewed and
21 examined under oath by a designated examiner of the United
22 States Citizenship and Immigration Services who has completed a
23 character and background investigation. Citizenship and
24 Immigration Services indicates that each of these individuals
25 has met all the requirements for naturalization and each is

1 well-qualified as a candidate for United States citizenship.

2 So on the record on behalf of the Immigration Office,
3 it is my distinct honor to move that all of these petitioners
4 be granted United States citizenship upon taking the oath.

5 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: I would invite my fellow
6 judges to rise for the administration of the oath. The
7 audience can follow the oath to be administered. It is on the
8 back cover of your program.

9 The citizens to be naturalized, please raise your
10 right hand: I, state your name, hereby declare, on oath, that
11 I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance
12 and fidelity to any foreign prince, or Potentate, state or
13 sovereignty, of whom or which, I have heretofore been a subject
14 or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution of
15 the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic,
16 that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I
17 will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by
18 the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed
19 forces of the United States when required by the law; that I
20 will perform work of national importance under civil direction
21 when required by the law; and that I take this obligation
22 freely, without any mental reservation, or purpose of evasion,
23 so help me God.

24 By applause, let's welcome our new citizens.

25 (Applause.)

1 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Now we are happy to have
2 two citizens to lead us all along with our newly nationalized
3 citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance. We have Marlo Hinz, a
4 fifth grade student at Meadowlark Elementary. Marlo is in
5 Ms. Logan's class. She is on student council. We also have
6 Nick Zimmerman, a sixth grade student at Meadowlark Elementary
7 in Mr. Francis' class. He, too, is on student council. Both
8 are amazing students with positive personalities, always doing
9 the right thing with a smile on their faces, so let's see those
10 smiles as you lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

11 (Recitation of the Pledge of allegiance.)

12 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you very much.

13 We have "America the Beautiful" performed by the
14 Meadowlark Choir under the direction of Kara Smith.

15 (Playing of America the Beautiful)

16 THE COURT: We are pleased to have a President's
17 message for this ceremony. If we too are straining to watch,
18 it is because this is the first ceremony we have had the
19 President's message available for -- to be played, so I would
20 ask the Clerk's Office --

21 PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: My dear fellow Americans, it
22 is with great pride that I welcome you into the American
23 family. No matter where you come from or what faith you
24 practice, this country is now your country. Our history is
25 your history. Our traditions are now your traditions. You

1 enjoy the full rights and the sacred duties that come with
 2 American citizenship, very, very special. There is no higher
 3 honor. There is no greater responsibility. You now share the
 4 obligation to teach our values to others. To help newcomers
 5 assimilate to our way of life, and to uplift America by living
 6 according to its highest ideals of self governance and its
 7 highest standards. All Americans are your brothers and
 8 sisters, and each of us must do our part to keep America safe,
 9 strong and free. America is our home. We have no other. You
 10 have pledged allegiance to America. And when you give your
 11 life and loyalty to America, she returns her love and loyalty
 12 to you. We share one American heart and one American destiny.
 13 It is a destiny filled with love, opportunity and hope.

14 We celebrate this day. We welcome you into our
 15 national family, and we applaud your devotion to America, and
 16 we embrace the wonderful future we will have together. Thank
 17 you and God bless you, and God bless America.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: We are pleased to have with
 20 us today as our guest speaker, Jillian Balow. She is fifth
 21 generation Wyoming native. She has an undergraduate degree in
 22 education from the University of Wyoming, and a master's degree
 23 in education from Regis University. She taught for over a
 24 decade in Wyoming elementary and secondary classrooms. She was
 25 elected in 2014 to a four-year term as Wyoming State

1 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

2 In this role, she supervises public education in
3 Wyoming, oversees staff, programming and budgets for the
4 Wyoming Department of Education, and is a member of many boards
5 and commissions which influence policy in our great state,
6 including the State Land Loan and Investment Board, the
7 University of Wyoming Trustees, School Facilities Board and
8 Community Colleges and the State Board of Education.

9 Perhaps her most proud accomplishment is as the
10 mother of two, with Peyton age 17 and Jack age 11.

11 Let's welcome Ms. Balow.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. BALOW: First, I would like to thank the
14 Honorable Judge Freudenthal for asking me to speak today.
15 There are so many moments in this life that humble me. This is
16 one of them. It is truly a great honor to welcome you our
17 newest citizens to the United States of America and to Wyoming.
18 What a special day.

19 I am in the business of education, and I have been my
20 whole life. I know a thing or two about learning. What you
21 celebrate today is a milestone in your own learning, in your
22 own education. You have learned through this process about
23 yourself, and you have learned about your new country, but it
24 is just a milestone and many learning experiences await you.

25 Each of us -- each of you has a unique story that

1 brings you to today. You have struggled. You have triumphed.
2 You have wondered if today would really come. And despite the
3 personal stories that are different for each of you, you also
4 have so much in common.

5 When you arrived in the United States and made a
6 decision to become a citizen, you made a conscious decision to
7 learn. You memorized facts, facts about our country's past and
8 present. For example, "How long is the U.S. President's term?
9 How many U.S. senators are there? How many branches of
10 government are there? What was Benjamin Franklin famous for?"
11 It is helpful to know those facts, right?

12 My hunch is that you, along with all of the students
13 from Meadowlark Elementary could give the rest of us a run for
14 our money if we had a trivia contest about our Constitution,
15 our founding father and the government structure of our
16 country, and that is a really good start.

17 But next, you begin to see how those facts that you
18 learned fit together. Maybe you considered how a decision made
19 in your community reflected conversations that was happening in
20 our state or at the national level. Maybe you read an article
21 about a Supreme Court case that was not settled by a
22 legislative branch, and you contemplated the checks and
23 balances that exist to help ensure justice, freedom and
24 collective wisdom.

25 At this point, your learning facts went from

1 memorizing facts to knowledge about our nation and about your
2 new home. One of our founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin said,
3 "An investment in knowledge pays the very best interest," and
4 maybe so, but that interest is not paid without a great effort
5 on your behalf. With knowledge, you see, comes an even greater
6 responsibility. It is a responsibility to engage. Engage in
7 your new journey as an American as a Wyomingite.

8 This is the final stage of learning. It is called
9 mastery, and it is incorporating all that you have learned in
10 your life and in your journey to make yourself, your community,
11 your state, your country a better place. You have memorized,
12 you gained knowledge, and now being an American is part of who
13 you are. It is part of all of us. You are part of America,
14 and America is part of you.

15 Today is the ceremony where we get to celebrate this
16 important milestone, your learning, please, know that learning
17 is lifelong, and it does not end today. I am a big fan of
18 Henry Ford. And Henry Ford once said, "Anyone who stops
19 learning is old, whether at 20 or at 80. And one who keeps
20 learning is young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your
21 mind young. Today and every day, you must make conscious
22 choice to be a lifelong learner.

23 Do you need to learn more facts about America? Not
24 necessarily, unless it interests you. Do you need to read the
25 paper every day? Do you need to run for public office? Do you

1 need to vote? Not really, unless it interests you.

2 Your responsibility as a lifelong learner is to
3 recognize problems and obstacles in your neighborhood, in your
4 community, in your state, in our nation, and determine two
5 things: Number 1, it is important to you; and Number 2, how
6 you will be part of the solution.

7 Friends, we Americans have three unalienable rights,
8 life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And to preserve
9 those American rights, we have the perpetual, the ongoing
10 responsibility, to be part of solutions. This is lifelong
11 learning. Because, you see, pursuit is a journey. It is not a
12 destination.

13 Our founding fathers knew this, and they counted on
14 each of us to recognize problems, react with emotion, apply
15 facts and knowledge that we have learned and take a virtuous
16 action to make ourselves and others better. They counted on
17 the endurance of the United States and the endurance of her
18 people. Our founding father Thomas Jefferson said, "The ground
19 of liberty is to be gained by inches. That we must not be
20 content and to secure what we can get from time to time and
21 eternally press forward for what is yet to get. Inches are
22 gained not only by the President, by senators, by elected
23 officials, by judges or others, they are gained. Inches are
24 gained by each one of you, by your leadership in your own life,
25 in your families, in your children's schools, in your

1 communities, in our state and in our nation.

2 The actions that you take today and every day to make
3 yourself better, your family better and your community better,
4 are indeed preserving our unalienable rights to life, liberty
5 and the pursuit of happiness.

6 Now, it's conceivable that some of you desire to run
7 for an office or to take a more official leadership in our
8 country. Good for you, but you don't have to. One thing I
9 remember learning about America is that we are a melting pot.
10 And when I was a little child, I envisioned the melting pot as
11 a pan on the stove with lots of colored crayons in it. And I
12 feared -- I really feared that the melting pot of crayons would
13 turn into of a gray color like it did when you scribbled
14 crayons together. As an adult, I realized that our colors, our
15 religions, our beliefs, our families, our interests, are
16 citizens are brilliant, and they are bright crayons that never
17 turn gray as I imagined as a child. So thank you, thank you
18 for adding your colors to this brilliant pot. This is a proud
19 day to be an American and to share it with you.

20 I have one final personal reflection to share with
21 you. I grew up in America. I grew up in Wyoming. I don't
22 really believe that I ever took it for granted, but each one of
23 you at this ceremony has inspired me to be a better American,
24 and I thank you for that. You see, you chose -- you
25 consciously chose to be an American, and that is significant.

1 You are inspiring. Your enthusiasm, your knowledge, your
2 resolve, your strength and your future, you inspire not just
3 me, but you inspire all of us.

4 My American friends, we all look different. We have
5 different beliefs, and our journeys are not the same. We do,
6 however, share these things: We are all bright crayons in the
7 melting pot of our nation. We share the unalienable right that
8 make each one of us Americans, and we share both the pride and
9 the humility of being part of this great nation.

10 I will end today with one final thought. Next time
11 you pick up a penny or a dollar or hopefully a \$100 bill, note
12 the phrase "e pluribus unum." That is Latin for "Out of many
13 one." And its importance has been noted for many years as our
14 nation for as many years as our nation has existed.

15 Out of many states has come one country. Out of many
16 citizens has come one country. My friends, my countrymen, my
17 countrywomen, congratulations on fulfilling your dream to
18 become an American. Congratulations and welcome home.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: At this time, we'll be
21 passing out the certificates as a tangible recognition of their
22 new citizenship. I would invite the judges to step in front of
23 the table to welcome our new citizens. This will be a bit like
24 a graduation.

25 (Handing out of the certificates.)

1 First, we have Andrei Albu, Navneeta Ray, Adrian
2 Fluture, Adriana Carmen Fluture, Melly Caubaljeo Udodong,
3 Mengh XU, Vladimir Alvarado, Shuang Yuan, Martha Patricia
4 Chavez, and Patricia Soares Gierau.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: I understand that we have a
7 student card presentation. I would welcome that at this time.
8 Let's thank the students for the work that went into the cards.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: We also have presentations
11 by patriotic organizations. These organizations have supported
12 our naturalization ceremonies for decades. Here represented,
13 we have the American Legion No. 6 Auxiliary, Colonial Dames of
14 Amercia, Colonial Dames XVII Century, the Daughters of the
15 American Revolution, Veterans of Foreign Wars 1881 Auxiliary
16 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars 4343 Auxiliary. I would
17 invite those presentations at this time.

18 This packet is quite impressive. Everything from the
19 American flag, and the Flag Code to the United States
20 Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Thank the patriotic
21 organizations very much for those materials.

22 We also have letters of welcome and congratulations
23 from our congressional delegations. We have representatives
24 from our Senior Center Mike Enzi's office, Senator John
25 Barrasso's office, and Representative Liz Chaney's office.

1 I would invite the Meadowlark band back for "God
2 Bless America."

3 (Playing of God Bless America.)

4 (Applause.)

5 JUDGE RANKIN: Good morning. It is a special honor
6 for me to give a few remarks. What a wonderful ceremony, and
7 thank you very much to the students and staff of Meadowlark.
8 What a wonderful presentation and songs by both the choir and
9 the band here. Thank you so much.

10 It is only fitting I think that the ceremony takes
11 place the week of Veterans Day. We honor all of the men and
12 women who have served in our armed forces. For those that are
13 here that have served and with family that have served, thank
14 you for your service.

15 Congratulations to each of our new citizens.
16 Welcome. You are all now Americans. I know that an
17 interesting sidenote about the oath of allegiance you just took
18 a moment ago, the oath has been given for a long time. In
19 fact, the first officially recorded oath of the allegiance was
20 made in 1778 at Valley Forge during the American Revolutionary
21 War. So for some 239 years, Americans, new Americans like
22 yourselves have been given the oath and have been sworn in the
23 same fashion that you were today.

24 Well, so what does it mean to be an American? Of
25 course, it means you get to vote, serve on a jury. You get to

1 now enjoy all of the freedoms and liberties as newly sworn
2 citizens of the United States of America. No doubt these are
3 very important rights and liberties -- rights and liberties
4 that people all over the world envy.

5 But what else does it mean to be an American? Most
6 importantly, it means that we are free. Abraham Lincoln said,
7 "Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we
8 ought. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that
9 faith lead use to the end do our duty as we understand it."

10 "More than freedom," as President Roosevelt once
11 said, "Americanism is a question of principles, of idealism, of
12 character. It is not a matter of birthplace or creed or line
13 of descent."

14 I would only add that this country's power lies in
15 its citizen uniqueness and in their unity. You are doing here
16 more than just completing a legal process; although, I am sure
17 that has been a long process for you, as many of you have
18 varied individual stories about just how you got here. You are
19 making a lifelong promise to uphold the laws and values that
20 make America what it is. That promise comes with great
21 privileges of American citizenship. It also comes with great
22 responsibility.

23 New employment and leadership doors are being opened
24 wide to you today. And I would encourage you to explore what
25 lies behind each one of those. There is no doubt all of your

1 communities have much to gain from each of you for years to
2 come. Again, congratulations and welcome. You have worked
3 incredibly hard, I know, to earn this citizenship, and I know I
4 speak for all of the Wyoming neighbors when I say, "We are
5 grateful to have you."

6 (Applause.)

7 JUDGE PARKER: Thank you, Judge Rankin. Thank you,
8 Meadowlark for having us here today, and thank you for all of
9 our performers. That was fantastic music, and I really do envy
10 your skills. I have none of it.

11 Thank you to everybody that helped and supported
12 these individuals in their endeavor to become citizens today.
13 But most importantly congratulations to each and every one of
14 you on becoming a United States citizen, and thank you for
15 letting me be a part of it.

16 I have learned from talking to other citizens that
17 were recently sworn in that they just kind of expected to show
18 up in a big room and raise their right hand and get sworn in.
19 They don't expect this type of pomp and circumstance. This is
20 bigger than what we are even used to, but this ceremony really
21 shows you just how great it is to be in Wyoming. Everyone in
22 this room is here because they want to be part of history in
23 the making. We are all so excited to welcome you. It is truly
24 a honor for me to be able to participate, but there really are
25 no words that can adequately express the sacrifice you made to

1 get here or how proud people are of your accomplishment.

2 Judge Rankin pointed out there was a very special
3 oath that you took today. There are words as part of that
4 oath, "That I would support and defend the Constitution and
5 laws of the United States of America, against all enemies
6 foreign and domestic." This is such a powerful statement and a
7 statement that so few U.S. citizens actually ever get to make.
8 Someone born as a U.S. citizen may never get to say those words
9 in front of an audience. You are making the same allegiance
10 that our President does, that a U.S. Senator does, a federal
11 judge like us sitting here today or brave member of our armed
12 forces. America, the land of the free. Freedom to choose your
13 path in life and express opinions. Educate yourself. Be part
14 of the decision-making. To practice a religion of your choice.
15 But as you have probably been told, with freedom comes
16 responsibility. It is easy to take for granted the
17 opportunities provided to us in the United States. So we all
18 have an obligation to make the place we live a better place.
19 You have already shown your commitment to this when you became
20 a United States citizen, a process that requires dedication and
21 tenacity. You had to study and learn America's history and way
22 of life. But your way of life, your culture and experience can
23 enhance all of our lives.

24 It seems like every day that I read something or I
25 hear something on the news that makes me sad, another senseless

1 act of violence. Unfortunately, our media often focuses on
2 these types of things, but there are many good things going on.
3 Wyoming media is here today to share with everybody else in the
4 state the thing that you are all witnesses of.

5 I want all of the students here today to make a
6 commitment that you are going to be part of something good
7 every day, which means you might have to make some something
8 happen yourself. I want all of the good to drown out the bad.
9 You want to show these new citizens today what a fantastic
10 choice they made in becoming a United States citizen in the
11 state of Wyoming. Again, congratulations. Your dedication to
12 this process demonstrates great determination for all of you.

13 JUDGE JOHNSON: Well, thank you, Meadowlark. So nice
14 to see all of you students. I want to thank the wonderful
15 teachers, the opportunities that provided this brand-new
16 school, part of School District No. 1. It is just amazing to
17 be here and share this wonderful environment for learning that
18 exists here at Meadowlark.

19 I want you to also know how pleased I am to be here
20 at Meadowlark Elementary School. This is a very happy time for
21 our new citizens and for the judges of the United States
22 District Court here in Wyoming as we celebrate together for the
23 students of Meadowlark a very important ceremony in the lives
24 of our newest citizens. Your patience and your dedication,
25 education and hard work has resulted in achieving their

1 citizenship and their allegiance.

2 Like many people who were born in the United States
3 and Wyoming, I took my citizenship in the United States for
4 granted. I didn't give much thought to being a citizen until
5 I took an oath promising to serve my country, United States of
6 America, in the United States Air Force. Perhaps some of the
7 students here have a mother or father who is serving on active
8 duty in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines the National Guard
9 here in Wyoming. If so, your parents have taken the same oath
10 to support the laws and the people of the United States. We
11 will see the excitement on the faces of our new citizens, and
12 their families will realize how much effort they have given to
13 become citizens. I feel great admiration and pride for each of
14 them.

15 My family has benefited from the process that has
16 brought new citizens here today. Last July, my daughter's
17 husband who is a father of two very much loved grandsons took
18 the oath of citizenship, and proudly received a certificate
19 from Chief Nancy Freudenthal. My son-in-law came to the United
20 States from city of Southeast India to study and to work. For
21 him, citizenship has been a dream. I know that your children
22 and your grandchildren will always be thankful to each new
23 citizen for becoming a United States citizen today for the
24 courage and determination needed to start over in a country. I
25 hope that you tell them your story and to the next generation,

1 so they will not take their citizenship for granted.

2 Speaking of children and grandchildren, we need each
3 of our newest citizens to help educate them or re-educate those
4 of us who were born here who may have forgotten how the system
5 was designed to work as our most caring and generous nation on
6 this planet, because you have taken the time to learn about our
7 three branches of Government. Legislative branch is empowered
8 by Article I of the Constitution. A vote of congress making
9 the laws including Section VIII which establishes authority
10 over uniform Rules of Naturalization. Executive powered by
11 Article II of the Constitution, represented by the office of
12 President and executive agencies. Article III, which you are
13 seeing standing seated before you wearing the black robes, the
14 judiciary, those who support the judiciary.

15 Each new citizen has studied the Bill of Rights and
16 our Constitution, and our system of checks and balances that
17 protect the citizens from undo government interference in their
18 lives. You learned about the importance of the role of the law
19 and impartial judiciary, one of which judges can settle cases
20 based on the law and the facts, and not because they fear
21 losing their jobs or their lives, if they decide a case in a
22 way that displeases an elected official.

23 Many have referred to the many people from different
24 places who emigrated to America, having become part of a
25 melting pot; however, each person has his or her individual

1 dream and views what America is and should be. Certainly, we
2 don't melt when we become citizens of the United States.
3 Judge John Gustafson had declared -- and Meadowlark students
4 will understand this -- "To me, America is more like a pot of
5 stew than a melting pot. I think every country in the world
6 has something like what I would call 'stew.' You fill a pot
7 with some water and some broth, add some rice, couscous, add
8 some meat, maybe chicken or lamb, or fish, beans or lentils are
9 added, vegetables, onions, peppers, tomatoes, celery,
10 seasonings, salt, pepper, curry, chili -- what makes it so
11 delicious is the combination of the wonderful flavors, the
12 beans, the meat and peppers don't melt. They each contribute
13 to the wonderful flavor of the dish. That is how I see
14 America."

15 You don't have to lose your identity to contribute to
16 America's feast. We will all be better together than we could
17 ever hope to be separately. As you enter the journey of your
18 lives and the opportunities that may come your way, make the
19 most of the opportunities. Make things better by being good,
20 participating citizens, good neighbors and family members, and
21 treat your fellow Americans fairly with consideration.
22 Remember what it was that caused you to take this journey.
23 Remember what made you want to be a citizen, what made you want
24 to be an American. Help make an even better America for you,
25 for me and for our future generations.

1 JUDGE PHILLIPS: One of my very favorite things we
2 can do as judges is participate in these naturalization
3 ceremonies, because they are happy occasions. There are days
4 where we get to celebrate and to reflect. We celebrate all you
5 have achieved and your special moment here with us today. We
6 reflect on those in our own families who crossed the border or
7 crossed an ocean and became citizens and made life so much
8 easier for those of us who did not. I suspect there will be
9 people who will look back at your descendants with the same
10 esteem that we look back on our own thankfulness for that.

11 I have a sense of what is involved as far as becoming
12 a citizen simply because people have told me. I never had to
13 do it myself. From what I know, and I only know a part of it,
14 I understand just how much you have achieved, and I salute you
15 for that. It is very much my honor, and I am grateful to be
16 here today to welcome you as fellow citizens. I can tell you
17 that the country is stronger today than it was yesterday before
18 we had you, before we had your talents and abilities joining
19 us. With your devotion to this country, as with everyone
20 else's devotion in this room including the people who one day
21 will be running it. I laugh when they said that. Sixth
22 graders, here we are. I am happy to welcome you as fellow
23 citizens. And with all of our work together, the country will
24 continue to succeed. Thank you very much.

25 (Applause.)

1 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Well, thank you and
2 congratulations. The analogy of melting pot and now one of
3 stew, I have heard it remarked that America is much like a
4 tossed salad. All these food analogies help me -- help remind
5 me to invite each of you to refreshments after the ceremony
6 today.

7 And thinking of this idea of a tossed salad, I think
8 it is important to reflect upon the oath that these new
9 citizens took. I suspect that may have been difficult when you
10 were asked to renounce and abjure. Think about that. The word
11 of abjure. You don't hear that word very much, but to renounce
12 abjure what? Another government? A sovereign, a sovereignty,
13 a prince or Potentate. These new citizens were not called upon
14 to renounce the love they carry for their country at birth.
15 Hold that love. Hold that culture. Cherish that always. It
16 enriches us that you have that history. You bring that to the
17 salad, if you will, which makes our nation stronger and more
18 diverse.

19 I started the ceremony today with a moment of silence
20 and reflection on the victims of the church shooting. And I
21 did that not to detract from the ceremony and the celebration
22 of these new citizens, but to draw the contrast and to make the
23 point that we are a resilient country. We are a country that
24 is not defined by hate, violence, tolerance or name calling.
25 Your responsibility as new citizens has become more important

1 than ever.

2 Each of you, like all of us, will be called upon to
3 do your part to help build and maintain our country's best
4 values and highest principles, values of tolerance, inclusion,
5 diversity compassion, and, yes, love; principles of service,
6 equality, and, yes, sacrifice.

7 I ask each of you to help our country and its elected
8 leaders remember and honor these values and principles going
9 forward. I would like to quote Supreme Court Justice Louis
10 Brandeis, who said, "In this country, the highest office is
11 citizen."

12 You have now each assumed that high office, and your
13 office, like other offices, has duties. You have the duty to
14 be informed. The duty to participate in the political process.
15 The duty to vote, serve on a jury, and, yes, even the duty to
16 pay taxes. You also have the duty to make the United States
17 the country that you hoped to find when you arrived and that
18 you wanted to be. Your participation in those duties will be
19 very valuable. Because newcomers have always given the renewed
20 energy and integrity, toward our nation's ideals, our nation's
21 values and higher principles.

22 It is important that you extend that tradition to
23 reinforce those values and to remind each and all of us of our
24 country's principles, and I am confident that you will.

25 Congratulations.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Again, in closing the
3 ceremony, you are all invited for refreshments adjacent to this
4 gym. I also ask if a Katherine Elizabeth Hall is in the
5 audience, I have your driver's license.

6 Having no further business to come before the Court,
7 we'll end and adjourn until called.

8 (Proceedings concluded 11:15 a.m., November 6, 2017.)

9 -oOo-

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

