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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

In the Matter of the
Naturalization and Granting of
United States Citizenship to

JORGE ARTURO GRION BENCOMO,
PANFILA ROMERO MARTINEZ,
MARICELA BIRD,
MIGUEL HERNANDEZ,
CHIA FANG HSU,
YEKATERINA ANDREEVNA MINAICHEVA,
GEETA SHARMA,
YVONNE JUNE NEWSON,

Cheyenne, Wyoming
November 14, 2011
11:09 a.m.

Joseph C. O'Mahoney
Federal Courthouse

Petitioners.

TRANSCRIPT OF CEREMONIAL PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ALAN B. JOHNSON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Court Reporter: JULIE H. THOMAS, RMR, CRR
Official Court Reporter
2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2228
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307)778-0078

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography,
transcript produced by computer.

1 (Proceedings commenced 11:09 a.m.,
2 November 14, 2011.)

3 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.
4 Please be seated.

5 I am pleased to welcome everyone who has come here,
6 family and friends, to celebrate in this citizenship
7 proceedings in the United States District Court for the
8 District of Wyoming. It is very gratifying to see all of the
9 faces out there of family members and friends who want to be
10 present on this important day for these new citizens.

11 So we welcome you and hope that you will participate
12 in these proceedings and feel free to move about the
13 courtroom. We are suspending the usual rules that prohibit
14 cameras and recording devices in the courtroom, and we
15 certainly allow you to take photographs. And I see some of
16 you way in the back there with your cameras. You should feel
17 free to move close and even come through the rail here during
18 this ceremony and take pictures to preserve the memories of
19 this important ceremony. And when it is over, we will remain
20 in the courtroom so that you can pose your new citizen family
21 member and friend here by the flag of the United States of
22 America, to which we will pledge allegiance later in this
23 proceedings, and take photographs right here next to the
24 bench.

25 This is a special day. Pursuant to tradition, there

1 are gifts that will be given by and mementos of this ceremony
2 from patriotic organizations that have supported citizenship
3 and these citizenship ceremonies through many years. And I am
4 pleased to welcome:

5 The Daughters of the American Revolution, Pam Immig,
6 Jean Rayl, Judy Engelhart who is the regent, Kim Zwonitzer,
7 and Helen Bolognesi.

8 The Colonial Dames, Shirley Flynn, JoAnna Kline,
9 Dorothy Torkelson, and Claire Davis are present representing
10 that organization.

11 The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary 4343, pleased
12 again as so often she is present supporting these ceremonies,
13 Emma Fosdick and Mary Lou Lynn.

14 Veterans of Foreign Wars 1881 Auxiliary, Diana
15 Shinneman, Carol Tabor, and Hazel Johnson.

16 American Legion Post Auxiliary #6, Leigh Vossler is
17 present as well.

18 And I believe that Larissa Larson, the passport
19 specialist supervisor at the Colorado passport agency at
20 Aurora, Colorado, is also present in court. Would you stand?

21 DEPUTY CLERK NIELSEN: Your Honor, I think she is
22 across the hall where the tea is going to be held.

23 JUDGE JOHNSON: All right. And I want to tell
24 everyone that in our jury assembly room across the hall
25 following this ceremony, immediately following this ceremony,

1 will be a tea, and all of you are welcome to attend and
2 partake in that celebration. Our hostesses for the tea are
3 the Daughters of the American Revolution, and we thank them
4 for their efforts to make the tea a pleasant circumstance for
5 us.

6 As a special treat today, we have a guest speaker who
7 will be delivering an address to our new citizens, and I'm
8 just so pleased to welcome into this courtroom a
9 representative of the state judiciary for the State of
10 Wyoming. He is also an individual who has had honorable
11 service in our United States Army before coming back to
12 Wyoming to practice law. He practiced law for many years in a
13 firm located here in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Peter G. Arnold is a
14 judge of the state district court, the First Judicial
15 District, here in Laramie County, Wyoming, and you will be
16 hearing from him later as we proceed in this matter.

17 The representative of the federal government, the
18 government of the United States of America, is Mark Klaassen.
19 Mark is an Assistant United States Attorney for the District
20 of Wyoming, and he is here to make the motion seeking to admit
21 each and every one of you as citizens.

22 Mr. Klaassen, I'd be pleased to hear from you first.

23 MR. KLAASSEN: Thank you very much, Your Honor. May
24 it please the Court.

25 As the Court has just introduced me, my name is Mark

1 Klaassen, and I am here today appearing as a representative of
2 the United States Attorney's Office for the District of
3 Wyoming and in proxy for the Attorney General of the United
4 States in these proceedings.

5 It's my privilege, Your Honor, to introduce to the
6 Court the following individuals who are appearing today in
7 person for a hearing on their petitions for naturalization as
8 a United States citizen.

9 JUDGE JOHNSON: Would you each stand as Mr. Klaassen
10 calls your names.

11 MR. KLAASSEN: I'll do my best with some of these
12 pronunciations, but you'll have to forgive me if I don't get
13 it quite right.

14 The first name is Miss Panfila Romero Martinez, a
15 native and former inhabitant of Mexico; Mr. Miguel Hernandez,
16 a native and former inhabitant of Mexico; Mr. Jorge Arturo
17 Giron Bencomo, a native and former inhabitant of Mexico;
18 Miss Chia Fang Hsu, a native and former inhabitant of Taiwan;
19 Miss Yvonne June Newsom, a native and former inhabitant of
20 Canada; Miss Yekaterina Andreevna Minaicheva, a native and
21 former inhabitant of Russia; Miss Geeta Sharma, a native and
22 former inhabitant of India; and last, but certainly not least,
23 Miss Marcella Bird, a native and former inhabitant of Mexico.

24 Your Honor, each of these individuals has been
25 interviewed and examined under oath by a designated examiner

1 of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services who has
2 completed a character and background investigation. Citizen
3 and Immigration Services has indicated that each of these
4 individuals has met all the requirements for naturalization
5 and is well qualified as a desirable candidate for United
6 States citizenship.

7 As a fellow citizen of the United States, I want to
8 welcome and congratulate each of these petitioners on this
9 occasion. It's my privilege to participate in what I hope is
10 a very memorable and meaningful experience for you here today.

11 And so on recommendation of the immigration officer,
12 it is my distinct honor to move that all of these petitioners
13 be granted United States citizenship upon taking the oath.

14 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Klaassen.

15 Each of you should raise your right hands, and I will
16 ask that the courtroom deputy administer the lengthy oath.

17 And I would ask that each of you who are seated in
18 the audience should feel free to come forward and take
19 photographs, if you wish, move closer and even come through on
20 into the main area here of the court to take those photographs
21 while the oath is being administered.

22 I would ask that everyone harken to this lengthy oath
23 that reminds each of us of the oath that -- of the duties and
24 obligations that we have as citizens that we take for granted
25 so often. So listen carefully, and in your own minds take

1 this oath along with our new citizens.

2 Proceed.

3 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Please repeat after me.

4 I hereby declare, on oath...

5 THE PETITIONERS: I hereby declare, on oath...

6 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...that I absolutely and
7 entirely...

8 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I absolutely and
9 entirely...

10 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...renounce and abjure all
11 allegiance...

12 THE PETITIONERS: ...renounce and abjure all
13 allegiance...

14 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...and fidelity to any foreign
15 prince...

16 THE PETITIONERS: ...and fidelity to any foreign
17 prince...

18 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...potentate, state or
19 sovereignty...

20 THE PETITIONERS: ...potentate, state or
21 sovereignty...

22 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...of whom or which I have
23 heretofore...

24 THE PETITIONERS: ...of whom or which I have
25 heretofore...

1 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...been a subject or citizen...

2 THE PETITIONERS: ...been a subject or citizen...

3 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...that I will support and defend
4 the Constitution...

5 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I will support and defend
6 the Constitution...

7 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...and the laws of the United
8 States of America...

9 THE PETITIONERS: ...and the laws of the United
10 States of America...

11 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...against all enemies, foreign
12 and domestic...

13 THE PETITIONERS: ...against all enemies, foreign and
14 domestic...

15 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...that I will bear true faith and
16 allegiance to the same...

17 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I will bear true faith and
18 allegiance to the same...

19 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...that I will bear arms on behalf
20 of the United States...

21 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I will bear arms on behalf
22 of the United States...

23 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...when required by law...

24 THE PETITIONERS: ...when required by law...

25 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...that I will perform

1 noncombatant service...

2 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I will perform noncombatant
3 service...

4 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...in the Armed Forces of the
5 United States...

6 THE PETITIONERS: ...in the Armed Forces of the
7 United States...

8 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...when required by law...

9 THE PETITIONERS: ...when required by law...

10 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...that I will perform work of
11 national importance...

12 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I will perform work of
13 national importance...

14 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...under civilian direction...

15 THE PETITIONERS: ...under civilian direction...

16 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...when required by law...

17 THE PETITIONERS: ...when required by law...

18 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...and that I take this obligation
19 freely...

20 THE PETITIONERS: ...and that I take this obligation
21 freely...

22 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...without any mental
23 reservation...

24 THE PETITIONERS: ...without any mental
25 reservation...

1 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...or purpose of evasion...

2 THE PETITIONERS: ...or purpose of evasion...

3 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ...so help me God.

4 THE PETITIONERS: ...so help me God.

5 JUDGE JOHNSON: Congratulations. You have just taken
6 the final step to become citizens of the United States of
7 North America. Please be seated, and we will proceed.

8 Miss Nielsen presented to me an order which I will
9 now sign. That order recognizes that each of you have taken
10 all of the steps, passed all of the examinations, have resided
11 here, and are fully qualified for citizenship in this the most
12 altruistic and caring nation on earth. I am pleased to sign
13 that order for each of you at this moment.

14 I think all of these folks deserve a hand, don't you?
15 (Applause.)

16 JUDGE JOHNSON: To present mementos of this special
17 occasion in your lives, the American flag and Flag Code will
18 be presented by representatives of the Veterans of Foreign
19 Wars Auxiliary 1881.

20 (Presentation of American flag and Flag Code.)

21 JUDGE JOHNSON: The Star Spangled Banner booklet is a
22 product of the work of Deborah Nielsen, one of our courtroom
23 deputies here for the Clerk of Court's Office, and it will be
24 presented by the Colonial Dames. Shirley Flynn is here to
25 make that presentation and Dorothy Torkelson.

1 (Presentation of Star Spangled Banner booklet.)

2 JUDGE JOHNSON: The Wyoming Constitution will be
3 presented by American Legion Post #6 Auxiliary.

4 (Presentation of Wyoming Constitution.)

5 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you. And a copy of the United
6 States Constitution will be presented by Veterans of Foreign
7 Wars, the 4343 Auxiliary.

8 (Presentation of United States Constitution.)

9 JUDGE JOHNSON: And most important of all I am going
10 to send our courtroom deputy to each of you to deliver your
11 certificates of citizenship. As you receive it, will you
12 please stand so that your family member can take a photograph
13 if they wish to do so.

14 (Presentation of certificates of citizenship.)

15 JUDGE JOHNSON: It is now my distinct honor to
16 introduce the Honorable Peter G. Arnold, Judge of the state
17 district court, First Judicial District, Laramie County,
18 Wyoming.

19 JUDGE ARNOLD: Thank you, Judge Johnson.

20 It is -- may it please the Court.

21 JUDGE JOHNSON: Judge Arnold.

22 JUDGE ARNOLD: -- my distinct pleasure to be here to
23 welcome you. I have here five passports. Four of them are
24 mine that I accumulated over the years. One of them belongs
25 to my daughter, who was born in Germany in 1977, and I don't

1 know if you can see her photo. I brought these to remind
2 myself of how easy it was for me to get these. All I had to
3 do was fill out a couple of forms, submit proof of birth and
4 send a check in, whereas compared to you all, you all had to
5 work to get to this point, and for that I feel honored to be
6 selected to say a couple of words to you. I don't have
7 anything to give to you. I just have a couple of words I'd
8 like to say.

9 I reviewed the requirements it takes to become a U.S.
10 citizen. One thing that I didn't see in the listed
11 requirements was courage. It takes courage for each of you to
12 leave your home, your home country. There are family members
13 that you left at home, friends that you left at home to come
14 to our country and to become a citizen of our country. That
15 takes courage, and for that I respect each of you.

16 I was talking with Judge Johnson a little bit this
17 morning as we were getting ready for this proceeding, and one
18 of the things that I enjoy the most about being a district
19 judge in Wyoming is that I get to do adoptions, a joyous
20 event, a happy event when a couple who have been unable to
21 have children have this very young child that they are
22 adopting. And I encourage them to provide a safe, warm,
23 comfortable home for that child. And I think this is somewhat
24 similar. We all are adopting you. The United States is
25 adopting you, and I am confident that you will be provided

1 safe, warm, comfortable homes.

2 I prepared all this stuff before I knew I only had
3 about five minutes, so I'm going to have to cut it down a bit.

4 I noticed that in 2008 there were 1,046,539 people
5 who became naturalized citizens, which was a high year over
6 the last ten years, but in that year there were 245 in Wyoming
7 who became naturalized citizens, the lowest number in the
8 United States, but that's one of the reasons that we live
9 here. We like it this way.

10 I wanted to say a couple of words to you also about
11 the responsibilities that I believe you assume when you become
12 a citizen. One of them is to vote. And before you can vote
13 you should make great efforts to inform yourselves of the
14 positions of each of the candidates.

15 Another responsibility I believe you have is to
16 maintain your own cultural identity. Be who you were 20
17 minutes ago because that adds to the richness of our whole
18 society.

19 I encourage you all to become involved in community
20 activities. There are and these ladies here are terrific
21 examples of the benefits achieved from community activity.

22 I also read that Justice Brandeis, Justice Louis
23 Brandeis, who was a justice of the United States Supreme
24 Court, he served from 1916 until 1939, his opinions were,
25 according to legal scholars, some of the greatest defenses of

1 freedom of speech and the right to privacy ever written by a
2 member of the Supreme Court. He once said the only title in
3 democracy superior to that of President of the United States
4 is the title of citizen.

5 So I welcome you all and thank you for letting me
6 visit with you this short bit.

7 (Applause.)

8 JUDGE ARNOLD: Thank you, Judge Johnson.

9 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, Judge Arnold.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, will you please join me, all of
11 you who are citizens of the United States, stand, and let's
12 repeat the pledge.

13 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

14 JUDGE JOHNSON: Congratulations.

15 (Applause.)

16 (Naturalization proceedings concluded

17 11:33 a.m., November 14, 2011.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JULIE H. THOMAS, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, a Registered Merit Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported by machine shorthand the 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 27th day of February, 2012.

/s/ Julie H. Thomas

JULIE H. THOMAS
Official Court Reporter
Registered Merit Reporter
Certified Realtime Reporter
CA CSR No. 9162