

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:

Cheyenne, Wyoming
November 16, 2015
2:00 p.m.
South High School

6 MARVIN SPENCER NORENA BAZAN,
7 LONG LEE, SUPANSA DEBRUYN,
8 JEAN ELIZABETH AQUINO BROTHERTON,
9 MAALIM PATRIC AMOS KOMBO,
10 ENCHIEL SACAY BATES, GABRIELA BANVILLE,
11 BASKARAN THYAGARAJAN, PADMAMALINI BASKARAN,
12 MRUDHULA BASKARAN, MARY JANE TAJALE NIPPER,
13 IRENE CHEPKEMBOI YEGO, YI-LING CHEN,
14 GERALDINE MARY CLEMINSON, KASPARS KRUTKRAMELIS,
15 HARMINDAR SINGH PANDHER, YING HUEY CHIN,

16 Petitioners.

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

20 BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY D. FREUDENTHAL
21 Chief United States District Judge, Presiding
22 THE HONORABLE ALAN B. JOHNSON
23 United States District Judge
24 THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN
25 Chief United States Magistrate Judge

26 APPEARANCES:

27 For the UNITED STATES: MARK A. KLAASSEN
28 Assistant United States Attorney
29 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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33 Court Reporter: MRS. JANET DAVIS, RDR, FCRR
34 United States Court Reporter
35 2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2228
36 Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
37 (307) 635-3884

38 Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript
39 produced with computer.

1 (Proceedings commenced 2:00 p.m., November 16, 2015.)

2 (Call to order. Star Spangled Banner performed.

3 Pledge of Allegiance.)

4 THE COURT: Before we begin today's festivities, I do
5 want to take a minute for prayer or reflection for the victims
6 of the Paris attacks, for the loved ones and for those who care
7 for them, for our leaders of the world and for this world. May
8 we all find peace, love, compassion, consolation and
9 understanding.

10 (Moment of silence.)

11 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you to this facility and
12 the South High School administration. Thank you for the warm
13 welcome and for allowing us to use your facilities to take this
14 most important federal tradition of naturalizing citizens out
15 into the community. I appreciate it very much.

16 I would like to thank my colleagues to the right and
17 left of me for joining me today in this ceremony and
18 celebration: Judge Johnson who was introduced by our Clerk of
19 Court, Stephan Harris, and Magistrate Judge Kelly Rankin.
20 Thank you, gentlemen.

21 I also want to suspend the court rule prohibiting
22 cameras, and so you can take those cameras out of your pockets
23 or purses. I know the Marshal Service directed, consistent
24 with court rules, that those devices be turned off, but cameras
25 are permitted for this ceremony by order of the Chief.

1 I also want to recognize that at 2:45, in all
2 likelihood, if we're not done it will be during my comments. I
3 understand that the bell will ring and there will be a mass
4 exodus. I understand. I'll take a break so that those who
5 need to leave to meet their transportation or arrange for their
6 own commitments can get to where they need to get to.

7 I also want to thank the Marshal Service for helping
8 the federal judiciary bring the court to this school. We have
9 our U.S. Marshal Mark Woods somewhere hiding back there where I
10 can't see him. Thank you. Thank you to your U.S. Marshals for
11 your accommodation. Thank you, Marshal Woods.

12 This is always a tremendous experience, and it warms
13 my heart to see students, to see particularly those citizens
14 who will be naturalized today and for their family and friends.
15 Thank you for taking time out of your busy day and out of your
16 school day. I'm a believer that everybody should take the test
17 that these new citizens have had to take to be welcomed into
18 our country. I think it would give everybody who lives here a
19 deeper appreciation of the rights and privileges and duties
20 associated with American citizenship.

21 So thank you. Thank you, again, South High. Thank
22 you for the choral introduction. We appreciate your time and
23 your talent in handling this ceremony.

24 With that, I would like to invite the clerk's office
25 to provide a roll call of the citizens to be naturalized.

1 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Marvin Bazan, Long Lee, Supansa
2 Debruyne, Jeanne Elizabeth Brotherton, Maalim Kombo, Enchiel
3 Bates, Gabriela Banville, Baskaran Thyagarajan, Padmamalini
4 Baskaran, Mrudhula Baskaran, Mary Jane Nipper, Irene Yego,
5 Yi-Ling Chen, Geraldine Cleminson, Kaspars Krutkramelis,
6 Harmindar Pandher, Ying Huey Chin.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 We are joined by a representative of the U.S.
9 Attorney's Office, U.S. Attorney Mark Klaassen.

10 Mr. Klaassen, I understand you will make the motion.
11 Please proceed.

12 MR. KLAASSEN: I should have done that before I got up
13 here, Your Honor.

14 Thank you, members of the Court. Before I make the
15 motion, Your Honor, I just want to echo some of your comments
16 about the venue that we have here today. I think it is
17 excellent that the Court has chosen to convene in this setting.
18 In my other outside life I sit as a member of the Board of
19 Trustees for Laramie County School District No. 1, and it
20 pleases me to see South High hosting this event. I think it is
21 great for our students to be able to see this, to be able to
22 understand, appreciate firsthand the significance of
23 citizenship and all of the privileges and responsibilities that
24 go with that, that go with being an American.

25 And so I just wanted to mention that to the Court

1 before I make the motion today.

2 Your Honor, I am here today appearing as a
3 representative of the United States Attorney's Office for the
4 District of Wyoming and on behalf of the Attorney General of
5 the United States in these proceedings. It is my privilege to
6 introduce to the Court the following individuals who appear in
7 person for a hearing on their petition for naturalization as
8 United States citizens: Marvin Spencer Norena Bazan, formerly
9 of Peru; Long Lee, formerly of Taiwan; Supansa Debruyne,
10 formerly of Thailand; Jeanne Elizabeth Aquino Brotherton,
11 formerly of the Philippines; Maalim Patric Amos Kombo, formerly
12 of Kenya; Enchiel Sacay Bates, formerly of the Philippines,
13 Gabriela Banville, formerly of Romania; Baskaran Thyagarajan,
14 formerly of India; Padmamalini Baskaran, formerly of India;
15 Mrudhula Baskaran, formerly of India; Mary Jane Tajale Nipper,
16 formerly of the Philippines; Irene Yego, formerly of Kenya;
17 Yi-Ling Chen, formerly of Taiwan; Geraldine Mary Cleminson,
18 formerly of Zimbabwe; Kaspars Krutkramelis, formerly of Latvia;
19 Harmindar Singh Pandher, formerly of India; and Ying Chin,
20 formerly of Malaysia.

21 Each of these individuals have been interviewed and
22 examined under oath by an examiner of the United States
23 Citizenship and Immigration Services Office who has completed a
24 character and background investigation. Citizenship and
25 Immigration Services indicates that each of these individuals

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

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

10 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Klaassen.

11 I would invite my fellow judges to please stand. We
12 will be administering the oath.

13 Please, if you wish to follow along, the oath of
14 citizenship is stamped on the back cover of the program.

15 Please raise your right hand: I hereby declare, on
16 oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all
17 allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince or potentate,
18 state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a
19 subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the
20 Constitution and laws of the United States of America, against
21 all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith
22 and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of
23 the United States when required by law; that I will perform
24 noncombatant services in the armed forces of the United States
25 when required by law; that I will perform work of national

1 importance under civil direction when required by law; and that
2 I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation
3 or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

4 Congratulations as new citizens.

5 (Applause.)

6 THE COURT: I would also like to thank my judicial
7 assistant Kelly Erickson who wonders why I never follow the
8 program. While the Pledge of Allegiance was to be next, we
9 have done that already, so I would invite the South High
10 Concert Choir forward for America The Beautiful.

11 (America The Beautiful performed.)

12 (Applause.)

13 THE COURT: Now let's hear from the President of the
14 United States.

15 PRESIDENT OBAMA (videotaped presentation): It is an
16 honor and a privilege to call you a fellow citizen of the
17 United States of America. This is now officially your country,
18 your home to protect, to defend and to serve through active and
19 engaged citizenship. Together we are a nation united, not by
20 any one culture or ethnicity or ideology, but by the principles
21 of opportunity, equality and liberty that are enshrined in our
22 founding documents.

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

1 With the privilege of citizenship, though, come great
2 responsibilities, and so I ask that you use your freedoms and
3 your talents to contribute to the good of our nation and the
4 world.

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

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

15 (Applause.)

16 THE COURT: I would ask the judges join me up in front
17 of this table with Ms. Hilliker to present the certificates to
18 the new citizens.

19 (Presentation of certificates of citizenship.)

20 THE COURT: Let's have another round of applause.

21 (Applause.)

22 THE COURT: Well, this is a day of presentations. We
23 have various patriotic organizations here to either make a
24 presentation or to host refreshments after this ceremony is
25 concluded. We have the hostesses for the tea -- and let me

1 take this minute just so I don't forget. The tea has been
2 moved to Room D104 just across the hallway. It is not D106 as
3 announced in the program.

4 The hostesses for the tea will be the VFW 1881
5 Auxiliary. We have Lynn Orband and Carol Tabor here
6 representing that organization.

7 And I will announce those organizations that will be
8 making presentations to our citizens. If you would like to
9 stand up and present the items to be presented, that would be
10 appreciated.

11 We have the American flag presented by the VFW 4343
12 Auxiliary. Our representative of the auxiliary is Mary Lou
13 Lynn.

14 We have the America Flag Code presented by the
15 American Legion No. 6 Auxiliary. The representative of that
16 Auxiliary is Bernice Gertsch and Eva Moore.

17 The Star Spangled Banner booklet will be presented by
18 the Daughters of the American Revolution. We have Donna Weaver
19 and Judy Engelhart here representing the Daughters of the
20 American Revolution.

21 The Wyoming Constitution is presented by the Colonial
22 Dames of the XVII Century. We have Judy Norman here
23 representing that organization.

24 The U.S. Constitution is presented by the Colonial
25 Dames of America. We have Dorothy Torkelson and Ibbey Davis

1 here representing that organization.

2 Thank you very much to our patriotic organizations for
3 their participation in the naturalization ceremony.

4 We also have letters of congratulations presented by
5 representatives of our congressional delegation: Senator Mike
6 Enzi, Senator John Barrasso, and Representative Cynthia Lummis
7 are here represented by Martha Wilson, Chelsea Roedeker and
8 Matt Brown. If you wish to distribute your letters, thank you
9 very much. Thank you.

10 And we're pleased and honored to have as our guest
11 speaker Wyoming State Auditor Cynthia Cloud. As she makes her
12 way to the podium, let me provide a few biographical remarks.

13 Ms. Cloud was elected Wyoming State Auditor in 2010
14 and reelected in 2014. She serves as the 20th state auditor
15 for the State of Wyoming, and she's the first Certified Public
16 Accountant ever elected to this audit -- to this office.

17 The state auditor is responsible for the preparation
18 of the comprehensive annual financial report on the fiscal
19 affairs of the State. Her duties also include being chief
20 accountant and payroll officer for state agencies. She has
21 over 16 years in public accounting and is a successful business
22 owner.

23 In 1991 she graduated from the University of Alabama
24 magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. She
25 and her husband of 20 years, Charles, have four children:

1 Luke, Morgan, Connor and Wyatt. Their eldest son, Luke,
2 notably, is a fourth-generation Marine who served in Iraq.

3 Welcome, Auditor Cloud. We are happy to have you
4 here.

5 AUDITOR CLOUD: Thank you very much. It is an honor
6 to be here to address you on this afternoon of this wonderful
7 occasion that you have. You have made an investment in
8 yourselves, in your family and for your future generations and
9 you have waited many years to achieve this moment and
10 sacrificed much to reach this journey.

11 I know you studied hard because to understand the
12 challenge that you undertook, I took the test to see if I could
13 qualify as a citizen because I wondered about the types of
14 questions that you were going to be asked, and I was curious if
15 I could pass. They were very tough questions, but I'm happy to
16 report that I did pass. I was a little -- but your dedication
17 and your determination to accomplish this dream proves that you
18 are American through and through, and you reached this
19 milestone by choice.

20 Each of your stories are unique. You each come from
21 different countries. You bring different experiences and
22 perspectives to issues of national importance. Please exercise
23 your citizenship rights. You see very clearly, I imagine more
24 than the average American citizen, the blessings of freedom and
25 opportunity that America gives her people. The rights and

1 freedoms that you are afforded will not be taken for granted by
2 any of you because you truly understand the meaning of this
3 gift. As an American, we have awesome privileges, but with
4 that comes awesome responsibilities.

5 Calvin Coolidge, who was President of the United
6 States, had the quote: "We identify the flag with almost
7 everything we hold dear on earth: Peace, security, liberty,
8 our family, our friends, our home. But when we look at our
9 flag and behold it, emblazoned with all of our rights, we must
10 remember that it is equally a symbol of our duties. Every
11 glory that we associate with it is the result of a duty done."

12 Many have come before you. On Ellis Island between
13 1905 and 1914 an average of one million immigrants per year
14 came to the United States, and immigration officials reviewed
15 about 5,000 immigrants per day during the peak times at Ellis
16 Island.

17 They came seeking promise of a better life, for
18 prosperity and for hope. America offers you an amazing
19 opportunity to be what you want to be, to do what you want to
20 do, unlike any country ever on the face of this earth. It is a
21 dream.

22 Writer Lewis Adamic came to America from Slovenia in
23 1913 and described the night he and many other immigrants slept
24 on bunk beds in a huge hall. Lacking a warm blanket, the young
25 man "shivered sleepless all night listening to snores" and

1 dreams "in perhaps a dozen different languages." America
2 offers you the opportunity to dream in all different languages.

3 You have worked a long time to see this day and many
4 of you have built lives, received an education, have a job
5 you're shouldering, but you also now have the right to vote so
6 that your voice can be heard regardless of your gender. You
7 also have a chance to pay taxes and also serve on juries. You
8 now have the right to run for office, be involved in the
9 political process and vote. Our diversity is what gives
10 America her strength. Your involvement in the community and
11 helping each other is important.

12 Honor those who died fighting for these privileges by
13 offering your service. Get involved. You earned your
14 citizenship. In the presidential election cycle, vote.
15 Participate in this process. Learn who your city councilmen
16 are. Learn who your mayor is, your county commissioners, your
17 governor are. Wyoming is like no other place on earth, or no
18 other state. You have unfettered access to your legislators,
19 your congressmen, your state elections, your state legislators.
20 Participate.

21 Participate in a campaign or run for office because
22 you have earned your voice. You may think "I have never
23 participated or held an office." Well, neither had I. I was
24 elected the 20th state auditor in 2010 for Wyoming. I ran
25 because I knew that I could use my background and my experience

1 to benefit the State of Wyoming. I have worked hard and still
2 work hard to make a difference in my community and state
3 government. My mission is to leverage technology and
4 streamline government. And my point is that if it can happen
5 to me, it can happen to you.

6 Wyoming is a place for opportunity. We know our
7 neighbors. We work together to solve problems and get things
8 done. With only a little over 550,000 people, finding your
9 place to give back in your community will offer you many
10 opportunities and will be greatly appreciated.

11 The United States of America welcomes you with open
12 arms, and congratulations to you all and to your families as
13 you look to your futures. God bless America, and God bless
14 Wyoming.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE COURT: Thank you. Before I turn the microphone
17 over to Judge Rankin, I did want to thank my court reporter,
18 Jan Davis, seated at the end of the table. Within about 45
19 minutes you should be able to go on to the search engine of
20 your computer and bring up a transcript of these proceedings,
21 and you'll see your names announced. You will hear -- you can
22 read the course of the proceedings thanks to Ms. Davis. And
23 please do so. That transcript is free and available to you.

24 Judge Rankin.

25 MAGISTRATE JUDGE RANKIN: Thank you, Chief Judge

1 Freudenthal. Well, welcome. You are all now Americans.
2 Congratulations to each of you. I know it has been a long
3 haul. You all worked very hard. You studied the tests that
4 you have successfully taken and passed, and I know there are
5 many people in this audience that are very proud of those
6 efforts.

7 Leaving your homeland and saying good-bye to beloved
8 family and friends is not easy, traveling to this country,
9 finding a home, a job, adjusting to a new culture and a new way
10 of life. But the good news for all of us is the best of your
11 culture and way of life is the best of ours and your traditions
12 enrich not only your family; they enrich America.

13 Also remember that this country was founded on the
14 diversity of many tribes, countries and cultures. We have been
15 blessed by the rich cultures and traditions of so many people
16 like you and those that came before you. America is a
17 combination of the best of everyone who comes here. This great
18 country depends on new citizens such as you to learn and grow.
19 Our survival depends on the values of diversity, tolerance,
20 dignity and respect that we live by and teach each other.

21 Our very first President, George Washington,
22 recognized the importance of immigrants to our land, "not just
23 the rich and high-ranking newcomer, but the oppressed and
24 persecuted of all nations and religions who we shall welcome to
25 a participation in all our rights and privileges."

1 Being a United States citizen also means that you are
2 free, as Auditor Cloud indicated. The Constitution and laws of
3 this country are designed to protect your freedom. You are
4 free to think on your own and to form your own opinions, and
5 you may voice those opinions whether many people or few people
6 agree with you.

7 You are free to work where you want to, to read what
8 you want to read, to say what you want to say. You are free to
9 believe what you want to believe. There is no single American
10 way to think or believe. As a citizen of the United States,
11 you are free to follow your own path, wherever it may lead you.

12 But with that freedom comes responsibility. The
13 freedom of democracy comes with responsibility to participate
14 in the democratic process by voting, not casually or
15 carelessly, but in a way that is thoughtful and informed. You
16 have a responsibility to educate yourself so you can make good
17 choices for yourself, your family and this country that is now
18 your country. This democracy so hard fought for only works
19 when people participate fully by helping to choose who will
20 govern us all and by taking that process seriously.

21 The freedom of democracy also carries a responsibility
22 to your community, to your country. You must be willing to
23 serve this country as you can. Use your talents. Be active in
24 your community. Give back to your new country through civic
25 participation and service.

1 I'm sure all of you have someone whose help made it
2 possible for you to be here today; a friend, a relative, a
3 sponsor. Maybe they are here, but even if they're not, as you
4 celebrate your new citizenship, make sure you let them know how
5 much their help meant to you and perhaps a wonderful way to
6 honor them for their service to you is for you to reach out a
7 hand to someone else that may need your help. Your new
8 country, our country, will only continue to thrive if we care
9 about our fellow citizens as human beings.

10 Again, congratulations and welcome. You have worked
11 incredibly hard to earn your citizenship, and I know I speak
12 for all Wyoming neighbors when I say we are grateful to have
13 you.

14 (Applause.)

15 THE COURT: So that we don't put our choir in a bind
16 when the bell rings, I would invite them forward a little
17 belatedly for the performance of My Country. Let's hear from
18 the South High Choir.

19 (My Country performed.)

20 THE COURT: Thank you again to the South High Concert
21 Choir. That last song was just beautiful and was perfect for
22 this event.

23 I now turn the microphone over to my colleague, Judge
24 Johnson.

25 JUDGE JOHNSON: Well, the audience we have now really

1 has thinned a little bit. I'm so delighted that we have those
2 here who have supported them and have really been instrumental
3 in bringing them to this point. I look at their faces and I
4 think, my, wouldn't you be wonderful jurors. We are starting a
5 case tomorrow, and I'm kind of worried all of my jury panel
6 will arrive in the weather that's coming to Wyoming, to
7 Cheyenne. Maybe we will have to call on you to step in.

8 At any rate, congratulations to each of you for this
9 important step that you've taken in your lives. The
10 sacrifices, the sincere deliberation that brought you to this
11 beautiful school is both respected by us and deeply
12 appreciated.

13 The appreciation and recognition is deserved for the
14 family and friends who have supported the decision to achieve
15 citizenship. Your decision to become citizens of the United
16 States of America and having taken the oath of citizenship and
17 allegiance today serves to bind you and connect you to this
18 most generous and caring nation and the values that we share of
19 life, liberty and the opportunities to pursue happiness in our
20 lives.

21 Each of you may not know this, but you are, indeed,
22 part of a special group today. There are approximately
23 13,500,000 lawful permanent residents in the United States
24 today. These include students studying in America's colleges
25 and universities, persons who have come to these shores seeking

1 asylum from oppressive governments and others, as well as the
2 millions that have come here seeking better employment and have
3 been issued green cards. 8,000,000 of you are eligible to seek
4 citizenship as each of you have done, and approximately
5 4,500,000 are not presently eligible for citizenship for
6 various reasons, including the lengthy waiting period required
7 by law.

8 You are special for having endured the sacrifices
9 necessary to have been made for your dreams to come true and
10 for you to be with us today. By oath freely taken by you today
11 prior allegiances to places and government have been set aside.
12 In time of conflict, duty or need, the duty of the citizen will
13 be hence forward to serve the United States of America.

14 The status of being an American means that each
15 citizen has the duty to support and defend the Constitution of
16 the United States. It isn't persons just wearing a black robe
17 or the officers or the citizens who have taken public office.
18 Rather, it is each of you. You will have that duty, as well as
19 the law that provides the rules of our government and serves to
20 guarantee the rights that you and I share.

21 In order to effectively participate as a citizen, we
22 share a duty to inform ourselves on the issues affecting our
23 lives and our communities and to participate in our government
24 by voting, even seeking public office.

25 As human beings, we are prone to make mistakes.

1 However, in America the relations with one another, tolerance
2 of racial, ethnic and cultural difference, this will always be
3 the standard. It seems to me that we're often in this day and
4 age at risk of forgetting that we come from a diverse
5 population and that each and every citizen is important.

6 America has been built by many different people
7 working and living as one. Americans are called upon to pay
8 taxes, state and federal, and to honestly report their income.
9 They respond and serve when called to jury duty, and in time of
10 danger, Americans will step forward in many ways to support
11 their nation.

12 Each individual accepts responsibility for the broader
13 discharge of their duties as citizens, giving meaning each day
14 to the oath of citizenship that you have taken today and the
15 Pledge of Allegiance that we share.

16 In America, we have the freedom to express ourselves,
17 to write, speak and read what our minds conceive. Citizens are
18 free to worship and express his or her own spirituality.

19 The courtrooms of America are places where persons
20 accused of violating criminal laws will be heard by a jury
21 composed of citizens.

22 Each citizen votes in federal, state and local
23 elections and expresses himself or herself in an informed
24 manner by their precious vote. When you seek federal
25 employment, run for public office and serve your fellows, the

1 opportunities we receive from our citizenship allows each of us
2 equal opportunity to educate children, to prepare for and seek
3 meaningful occupations, create expression of opinion and
4 worship of personal religion.

5 Liberty means more than the unbridled will, and its
6 existence should not be solely dependent upon the Constitution,
7 law or the courts. The spirit of liberty rests within the
8 heart of each of us to perform the duties that we have as
9 citizens and to care for and consider the needs of others. If
10 this is the path we follow, then happiness, the pleasure of our
11 friends, successes of our families, the love for this nation
12 and its promise will be our shared destiny.

13 Best wishes to each of you. May the years ahead be
14 filled with success.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE COURT: Well, I, too, want to congratulate you and
17 express my best wishes as you move forward on this path of
18 being an American citizen. In looking at the oath of
19 allegiance that we administer to all new citizens, before we
20 ask for your allegiance, we require you to renounce and abjure
21 entirely and absolutely any allegiance to a foreign state,
22 prince or potentate.

23 I want to remind you that that doesn't mean that you
24 set aside the love that you have for your native country. That
25 love in your heart will be there until the day you die. We

1 only ask for your allegiance to our government and that you set
2 aside that past allegiance to the foreign government.

3 In terms of what it means to be a United States
4 citizen, you've heard from a number of wonderful speakers --
5 the state auditor, Judge Rankin, Judge Johnson. I wish to just
6 add my final thoughts, and they echo, really, some of the
7 observations you've already heard.

8 And those observations are that there is no one form
9 of an American. Some people want to portray or believe or
10 advocate that there is: There's a perfect American, a perfect
11 American religion, a perfect American way of thinking, a
12 perfect American way of believing. But that runs counter to
13 the values and the principles of this great country.

14 As an American, you may freely and openly be a
15 Christian, a Jew, a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Muslim. You may
16 adhere to any religion or none at all. In terms of thinking a
17 particular way, that is so contrary to our country. As Judge
18 Rankin said, there's no American way to think or believe,
19 whether it is about economic matters, political matters or
20 social matters. You may freely and openly adhere to any
21 political, economic and social view, whether they be on the
22 right, or on the left, or anywhere in between.

23 In terms of values, there's no single set of American
24 values. Nothing embroidered on a pillow or hung above a
25 fireplace. You as new Americans can openly and fully believe

1 your values which could greatly differ from those of your
2 neighbors, those of your friends. They could be shared by many
3 or shared by a few, or shared just by you.

4 So there is no way an American thinks or believes. We
5 are a diverse country. That diversity brings strength. It
6 brings cohesion. It brings tolerance. It brings peace. And
7 it brings love. It is part of the underlying principles of
8 this great nation.

9 I always mention Felix Frankfurter who was on the
10 United States Supreme Court, a court, an appellate court above
11 the court you see before you today.

12 He came to America and became, as you, a naturalized
13 citizen. He took that -- undertook that process and became a
14 naturalized citizen when he was only 12 years old. He went on,
15 as I said, to be a justice of the United States Supreme Court.
16 In his words, he said, "In this country the highest office is
17 citizen."

18 You have now assumed the high office of this country
19 and your office, just like State Auditor Cloud's office and my
20 office, has duties. As mentioned, you have the duty to be
21 informed, the duty to pay taxes, the duty to participate in the
22 political process, the duty to serve on a jury. You will be
23 lucky if the Marshal doesn't nab you on your way out for Judge
24 Johnson's jury.

25 But you also have the duty to work to make this

1 country, the United States of America, the country that you
2 hoped to find when you came here and the country you want it to
3 be.

4 I welcome you as one citizen to another.
5 Congratulations, and thank you for enriching our great country.

6 (Applause.)

7 THE COURT: Mr. Harris, is there anything else for the
8 business of the court?

9 MR. HARRIS: No, Your Honor, there is not.

10 THE COURT: Colleagues?

11 MAGISTRATE JUDGE RANKIN: None. Thank you.

12 JUDGE JOHNSON: None.

13 THE COURT: We will stand adjourned until call. Again
14 I would remind you again of the refreshments hosted by the VFW
15 1881 Auxiliary. Please join us. Thank you.

16 (Proceedings concluded 3:03 p.m., November 16, 2015.)

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