

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

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

Casper, Wyoming
September 14, 2020
3:38 p.m.

PATRICIA CATA DECHAPELLE, JOSE
DE JESUS REYES LOPEZ, ROGER
DANILO LOPEZ, SIBEL WILLIAMSON,

Ewing T. Kerr
Federal Courthouse

Petitioners.

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

BEFORE THE HONORABLE SCOTT W. SKAVDAHL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government:

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Court Reporter:

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

1 (Proceedings commenced at 3:38 p.m., September 14, 2020.)

2 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated. Good
3 afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Ewing T.
4 Kerr Federal Courthouse. The Court will suspend all rules on
5 cameras and recording devices. Regrettably, due to the
6 COVID-19 pandemic, we have limited attendance at this
7 proceeding. However, I do want to advise everyone that we are
8 livestreaming this ceremony via YouTube, and that link can be
9 found on the Court's website at www.wyd.uscourts.gov.

10 We'll also have the conference call line available
11 and open here in a minute. And if you have just tuned in to
12 the www.wyd.uscourts.gov website, you'll need to hit your
13 refresh button in order to get that to load because we just
14 put that link up here a little while ago.

15 It is the tradition at the beginning of these
16 naturalization ceremonies to recognize those citizens and
17 families of those citizens who have paid the ultimate price in
18 defending what so many in this world seek, the freedom and
19 benefits of being a United States citizen. As of this
20 morning, 7,053 American men and women have been killed in
21 action while involved in military operations in the Middle
22 East. In addition, 53,248 military personnel have been
23 wounded in action during these same military operations. Let
24 us take a moment of silence and recognize these American
25 heroes and their families, whose sacrifice cannot be measured

1 and whose loss will never be recovered.

2 (Moment of silence.)

3 THE COURT: The United States District Court for the
4 District of Wyoming is in Special Session for the
5 naturalization of foreign nationals to be United States
6 citizens. It is with great honor, pride, and privilege that I
7 have the opportunity to conduct today's ceremony, naturalizing
8 four of you who originate from four different countries around
9 the world: Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Turkey.

10 The Federal District Court of Wyoming, including
11 Judges Johnson and Freudenthal, extend their congratulations
12 to you and your families. I would ask the Deputy Clerk of
13 Court to take a roll call of prospective applicants for U.S.
14 citizenship, and if you could just please stand when your name
15 is called.

16 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Patricia Cata Dechappelle, Jose
17 De Jesus Reyes Lopez, Roger Danilo Lopez, Sibel Williamson.

18 THE COURT: All right. One of the most fundamental
19 acts that we do as citizens is pledge our allegiance to the
20 flag of the United States. Recent events have caused that
21 pledge to take on renewed spirit and meaning. I would ask
22 that you join me in the Pledge of Allegiance, and then we'll
23 remain standing for The Star-Spangled Banner.

24 (Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.)

25 (Playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner.")

1 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated. At this
2 time, I would ask the Clerk of Court to play the message from
3 the President of the United States.

4 (Playing the message from the President of the United
5 States.)

6 THE COURT: At this time, I would recognize the
7 United States for the making of the motion for granting the
8 petition for citizenship. One moment.

9 Good afternoon, Ms. Martens.

10 MS. MARTENS: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Let me see if I can get this to work.
12 All right. I think we have you.

13 MS. MARTENS: Perfect.

14 THE COURT: Ms. Martens, does the United States have
15 a motion that it wishes to make at this time?

16 MS. MARTENS: I do, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: I would hear you on your motion.

18 MS. MARTENS: Thank you. And may it please the
19 Court. Before the Court today are individuals here for a
20 hearing on their petitions for naturalization. Each of these
21 prospective citizens have successfully completed all the steps
22 necessary for eligibility for United States citizenship. In
23 addition, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service has
24 completed its process with respect to each of these
25 individuals, including all necessary background

1 investigations. Having successfully negotiated all of these
2 hurdles, we are advised that each of them is well-qualified to
3 be granted citizenship.

4 Therefore, on behalf of the United States, it is my
5 pleasure to move that this Court admit each of these
6 individuals to United States citizenship upon the taking of
7 their required oath. Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Martens. On the petition
9 of the United States, the Court would find that each of these
10 applicants identified has satisfied the legal requirements to
11 become citizens of the United States and, therefore, will
12 grant the petition and enter an order allowing these
13 petitioners to become citizens of the United States of America
14 upon taking of their oath, which I would administer at this
15 time. And if you would please rise and raise your right hand.

16 I, state your name, hereby declare, on oath, that I
17 absolutely and entirely -- and each of you, if you'll repeat
18 after me. Sorry. Hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely
19 and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity
20 any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom
21 or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I
22 will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the
23 United States of America against all enemies, foreign and
24 domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the
25 same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States

1 when required to do so by law; I take this obligation freely
2 without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help
3 me God. Congratulations.

4 (Applause.)

5 THE COURT: At this time, I would excuse you,
6 Ms. Martens, if you wish to leave, or you may remain online.

7 MS. MARTENS: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: All right. Have a good afternoon.

9 All right. One moment. The documents you've been
10 waiting for.

11 (Distribution of certificates.)

12 THE COURT: And at this time, Ms. Temte has handed
13 you letters from our Wyoming Delegation -- you can go ahead
14 and have a seat, if you wish -- and those letters come from
15 those individuals that are elected to the United States
16 Senate, Senators Barrasso and Enzi, and House of
17 Representatives, Congresswoman Cheney. So some information in
18 there for you. And obviously, those papers and documents are
19 important. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has
20 contact information. Keep those with you if you ever find the
21 need to contact them or to get additional documents.

22 At this time, I would recognize each of you to make
23 any statements that you would like to, to your friends and
24 family that can't be here with you. If you would just want to
25 state your name and anything that is significant to you and

1 your family and your friends today upon becoming a United
2 States citizen.

3 (Discussion off the record.)

4 THE COURT: I want to congratulate you, your
5 families, and friends. I'm sorry that they couldn't join you
6 here today in this courtroom on this momentous occasion. As
7 many of you have acknowledged, but for them, you wouldn't be
8 doing what you're doing today, and that is a great compliment
9 to them and how they've supported you.

10 I have contemplated, during this pandemic, to delay
11 these proceedings; but you've worked hard enough, and it's
12 important that you become United States citizens as soon as
13 you can. And you've waited long enough, as you noted,
14 Mr. Lopez, to have this day.

15 So thank you for what you and your unique experiences
16 and traditions and background add to the rich fabric of this
17 country. Thank you for wanting to become part of it. And
18 while this this country is not perfect, for over 240 years, it
19 has provided a sanctuary for freedom and served as an
20 incubator for the opportunity and advancement of all. And
21 with your energy, skills, and talents, I encourage you to make
22 us more diverse and talented and exercise your rights to this
23 democracy and vote.

24 Also, remember that the freedoms that you enjoy don't
25 exist unless we exercise them. And it's important that we all

1 do that, those of us that were gifted by birth with
2 citizenship and those that have worked to obtain it today.

3 This is the greatest nation on earth, but to remain
4 so, we must appreciate how and why we enjoy the freedoms that
5 we do. It is not because we all think and believe the same,
6 but rather, it is because we respect each other's diversity
7 and beliefs, which allows we, the people, to govern ourselves.

8 You are now part of this richly woven fabric of the
9 United States of America. We are not one individual but a
10 collection of many, united to form a more perfect union. May
11 it always be that way, and may God continue to bless you and
12 the United States of America. Congratulations, and we'll
13 stand in recess at this time.

14 (Proceedings concluded at 3:58 p.m., September 14, 2020.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, MEGAN STRAWN, Court Reporter in the state of Wyoming, a Registered Professional 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 8 pages constitute a full, true and correct transcript.

Dated this 14th day of September 2020.

/s/ Megan Strawn

MEGAN STRAWN
Registered Professional Reporter