



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sandra Klein Swears in New Citizens at SoFi Stadium Before Rams Game

SAN FRANCISCO – United States Bankruptcy Judge Sandra Klein, Central District California, administered the Oath of Allegiance to 15 new citizens on Sunday, November 13 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif., just before the Rams-Cardinals football game as part of the Rams’ “Salute to Service” Day. The event, coordinated by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, U.S. District Court for the Central District of California and the Los Angeles Rams, is the first naturalization ceremony held at SoFi Stadium.

“Those of us who were born in this country very often take the privilege of citizenship for granted,” said Judge Klein. “We did not have to apply for it; we did not have to study for it; and we did not have to take a test to achieve it. I have no doubt that each person naturalized today has a very deep appreciation and understanding of what it is to be a citizen of this great nation.

“The 15 candidates for citizenship were members of the military or first responders. They proudly served our country without being citizens, without being able to fully participate in all the benefits of citizenship and without being able to have a say in how our country is governed. When they raised their right hands and repeated the Oath, they were each grinning from ear to ear and a few of the candidates’ eyes glistened with tears. They had worked hard to achieve this significant milestone in their lives.

“It is such an honor and privilege to administer the Oath of Allegiance during naturalization ceremonies. Two of my grandparents were naturalized citizens,” said Judge Klein. “They loved this country and were so proud to pledge allegiance to our flag. So, having the opportunity to administer the Oath during these ceremonies is extra special for me.”

The new citizens came from China, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. Their numbers include nine members of the military and six first responders serving the Los Angeles area. The naturalization ceremony was aimed to coincide with Veterans Day weekend and the Rams’ “Salute to Service” Day, which honored members of the military and first responders.

USCIS Acting Field Office Director Arthur Schat presented the citizenship candidates to Judge Klein. USCIS arranges naturalization ceremonies in conjunction with local U.S. district courts and the U.S. Marshals Service.

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