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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 IN THE MATTER OF ) GENERAL ORDER NO. 12-05  
12 ESTABLISHING COURT POLICY ) (SUPERSEDES GENERAL ORDER  
13 GOVERNING NATURALIZATION ) NO. 03-05)  
14 CEREMONIES CONDUCTED AT )  
15 LOCATIONS OTHER THAN A )  
16 UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE )

17 This General Order shall supersede General Order 03-05.

18 WHEREAS, the Court's objectives in conducting naturalization ceremonies  
19 at locations other than a United States Courthouse are:

- 20 • To administer the oath of citizenship to all eligible candidates, whose  
21 number substantially exceeds the limited capacity of courthouse  
22 facilities;
- 23 • To maximize the number of eligible candidates who are administered  
24 the oath of citizenship within sixty (60) days of approval of their  
25 application for citizenship by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration  
26 Services, Department of Homeland Security ("USCIS"); and
- 27 • To assure that citizenship ceremonies are conducted in a manner  
28 consistent with the important purpose and dignity of the judicial  
administration of the oath of citizenship,

1 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following policy regarding  
2 naturalization ceremonies shall be adopted by the Central District of California:

3 1. When approval of the Chief Judge is obtained, special arrangements  
4 may be made for the swearing in of particular persons: (1) with serious health  
5 problems; (2) who are severely disabled; or (3) who have other special needs.

6 Further, the Chief Judge may approve ceremonies for one or a few persons upon  
7 the request of a judge.

8 2. Subject to the exceptions set forth above in paragraph 1, and in order  
9 to treat all candidates in a fair and equitable manner, requests to conduct special  
10 ceremonies in particular political jurisdictions or at military installations cannot be  
11 granted. It is not possible to conduct naturalization ceremonies in each  
12 jurisdiction or at every military installation, given the number of political  
13 subdivisions and military installations in the Central District.

14 3. Subject to the exceptions set forth above in paragraph 1, and in order  
15 to treat the large number of diverse nationalities and ethnicities represented in the  
16 Central District in a fair and equitable manner, requests to conduct special  
17 ceremonies only for persons from a particular country of origin or for a particular  
18 ethnic group cannot be granted. A naturalization ceremony in the Central District  
19 frequently includes 4,000 or more candidates from 100 or more different countries  
20 of origin.

21 4. Subject to the exceptions set forth above in paragraph 1, and in order  
22 to spend available resources promoting prompt service to candidates, requests to  
23 conduct special ceremonies at particular locations cannot be granted. Many  
24 factors must be considered when selecting the facility for a ceremony, including  
25 cost, availability, lighting, sound systems, staging and seating room, parking  
26 access, participant safety, convenience to candidates, and efficient use of staff.  
27 The Court does not have the resources available to conduct pre-ceremony site  
28 surveys and to prepare site operation plans for every new facility requested.

5. Naturalization proceedings are official court hearings and a matter of public record. Therefore, only the following individuals may be invited to address naturalization ceremony participants: employees of USCIS at or above the level of GS-14; such employees' direct supervisors; or the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

6. The use of any form, means, or manner of radio or television broadcasting and the taking or making of photographs, motion pictures, video recordings, or sound recordings intended for public broadcast are prohibited when the Court is in session, unless expressly authorized by the judge presiding and subject to any limitations set by that judge.

7. This General Order shall be effective upon filing by the Clerk.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

*Audrey B. Collins*

CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

*Date of Approval by the Court:* June 19, 2012

*Date of Filing by the Clerk:* June 21, 2012