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CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF )  
 )  
ESTABLISHING COURT POLICY )  
GOVERNING NATURALIZATION )  
CEREMONIES CONDUCTED AT )  
LOCATIONS OTHER THAN A )  
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

GENERAL ORDER NO. 96-6

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

- To administer the oath of citizenship to all eligible candidates, the large number of whom substantially exceeds the limited capacity of courthouse facilities;
- To maximize the number of eligible candidates who are administered the oath of citizenship within sixty (60) days of approval of their application for citizenship by the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and
- To assure that citizenship ceremonies are conducted in a manner wholly consistent with the important purpose and dignity of the judicial administration of the oath of citizenship,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that General Order No. 96-6 be adopted as follows:

1. Due to the scope and complexity of the Central District, requests to conduct special ceremonies in particular political jurisdictions will not be approved.

The Central District consists of 7 counties, 180 incorporated cities, 41 assembly districts, 20 senate districts, and 27 congressional districts. It is not feasible to conduct naturalization ceremonies in each jurisdiction nor is it equitable to accommodate selected jurisdictions.

2. Due to the nationality and ethnic diversity of the Central District, requests to conduct special ceremonies for persons from a particular country of origin or for a particular ethnic group will not be approved.

At a typical large ceremony, which would include a group of 4,000 candidates, approximately 100 different countries of origin will be represented. It is not feasible to conduct special ceremonies for each distinct country of origin nor is it equitable to accommodate a selected country of origin or ethnic group.

3. Due to the specific facility requirements which must be met for the appropriate conduct of naturalization ceremonies, requests to conduct special ceremonies at a particular location will not be approved. Subject to approval of the Chief Judge, special arrangements may be made for the swearing in of particular individuals with serious health problems or who are severely disabled. Further, the Chief Judge may approve ceremonies for one or a few persons upon the request of a judge.

A number of criteria are considered in facility selection, including, but not limited to cost; availability; facility features, such as lighting, sound systems, staging and seating; parking access; participant safety; convenience to candidates; and efficient and effective use of staff. Each time a different facility is used, it is necessary to conduct a pre-ceremony site survey and prepare a site operations plan. This involves an extensive staff effort to assure a well organized ceremony and such staff time is more effectively utilized in tasks more directly related to promoting prompt service to candidates.

4. Due to the nature of naturalization proceedings, which are official court hearings and a matter of record, which are conducted jointly by the Court and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, it is appropriate that speakers invited to address naturalization ceremony participants be and hereby are, limited to employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at or above the level of Assistant District Director.
5. Due to the nature of naturalization proceedings, which are official court hearings and a matter of record, when the Court is in session, the use of any forms, means or manner of radio or television broadcasting and the taking or making of photographs, motion pictures, video or sound recordings intended for public broadcast and which are focused upon the judge presiding are prohibited. With the approval of the judge presiding, media attention which is not disruptive of the proceedings may be focused upon the citizenship candidates prior to, during, and subsequent to the court session.