



Center for New Americans

A Community-Based Education and Resource Center for
Immigrants and Refugees in Western Massachusetts

18th Annual Naturalization Ceremony



July 4th, 2026
Historic Northampton Courthouse
Northampton, MA



Center for New Americans

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Sequence of Events

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Wayne G. Smith, Immigration Services Officer

CONVENING OF THE COURT

Melissa Rivera, Clerk, U.S. District Court General Clerk

POSTING OF THE COLORS

Boy Scout Troop 504 Amherst

OPENING SONG – AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Baillee DiStefano, vocal artist

WELCOMING REMARKS

Laurie Millman, Director, Center for New Americans
Honorable Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor, Northampton

MOTION FOR NAME CHANGE/ADMITTANCE TO CITIZENSHIP

Wayne G. Smith, Immigration Services Officer

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Melissa Rivera, Clerk, U.S. District Court



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Adela Imul Ajanel, Naturalized U.S. Citizen

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Baillee DiStefano, vocal artist

ORDER OF ADMISSION TO CITIZENSHIP/REMARKS

Honorable Kenneth P. Neiman, U.S. Magistrate Judge

RETIREMENT OF COLORS

Boy Scout Troop 504 Amherst

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COURT

Melissa Rivera, Clerk, U.S. District Court

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

Honorable Kenneth P. Neiman, U.S. Magistrate Judge



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The Pledge of Allegiance



“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Oath of Allegiance



“I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom, or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.”





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Welcoming & Serving Immigrants since 1992

We teach free classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to immigrant adults.

We offer classes mornings and evenings, in person and online, in Amherst, Greenfield, Northampton, and Springfield.

Our classes include instruction in digital literacy, civics, and employment.

We provide citizenship application and preparation assistance, some immigration legal services, including applications for Green Cards, employment authorization, family petitions, humanitarian legal services.

Visit us at www.cnam.org for more information.



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Are you eligible to become a U.S. Citizen?



Are you a legal permanent resident (LPR)?

Have you been an LPR for 5 years
(or 3 years and married to a U.S. citizen)?

Are you 18 years old or older?

Can you understand, speak, read, and write basic English?
(some exceptions for disability, age, and years as LPR)

Are you a person of good moral character?

Do you know about U.S. civics, history, and government?

If you answer “yes,” consider applying today.
Center for New Americans can help:
Call: 413-587-0084 or email legalteam@cnam.org





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Why Become a US Citizen?



Only U.S. citizens can vote in all elections.

It is easier for a U.S. citizen to bring family members to the U.S.

A child born outside of the country to U.S. citizen parents has rights to U.S. citizenship.

Children with green cards who are under the age of 18 when their parent becomes a U.S. citizen automatically become U.S. citizens.

A U.S. passport makes you eligible for assistance from the U.S. government when you are outside of the U.S.

Most jobs with the government are open only to U.S. citizens.

U.S. citizens can travel outside the U.S. for as long as they want.

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Congratulations on becoming a citizen of the United States of America!
We are honored to celebrate this important milestone with you and wish you happiness and continued success in the years ahead.

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Center for New Americans Legal Team

Center for New Americans' Legal Team assists hundreds of clients annually with applications for citizenship, legal permanent residence, employment authorization, and humanitarian applications. **Center for New Americans is also funded through a bold state pilot, the Mass. Access to Counsel Initiative, to provide pro bono assistance to immigrants in removal hearings.**



Alex Kaezem
Supervising Immigration
Attorney

Harleen Multani
Law Clerk

Abby Dallman
Immigration Attorney

Urszula Wolanska-Fettes
Paralegal

Amal Rmiki
Paralegal

Leunnamarie Gonzalez
Administrative Associate

(Left to Right)





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Center for New Americans Overview



Center for New Americans welcomes immigrants into our English classes and into our legal services program.

Our colleagues are program coordinators, teachers, advisors, tech associates, attorneys, paralegals, administrative associates, and childcare providers. Some are former students!

Whether constituents engage with us as students learning English, clients seeking immigration legal services, or both, we offer programs and services which translate to access -- to community resources, opportunities, and protections.

Center for New Americans' board of directors oversees and guides the organization.





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Center for New Americans thanks the volunteers who support our program.



Volunteers support our ESOL classes by:

- ~tutoring students
- ~serving as classroom assistants
- ~supporting our efforts in employment and digital literacy
- ~joining a Circle of Care

Volunteers support our legal efforts by:

- ~helping citizenship applicants at our monthly citizenship clinics
- ~coaching citizenship applicants to prepare for their interview
- ~conducting legal intakes



K E S T R E L



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mail@pedalpeople.coop



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Thank You Massachusetts Legislative Leaders!



Our Legislative Leaders join us in welcoming and supporting immigrants. They visit classes, file bills to enhance immigrant access, and respond to our students' and clients' concerns.

Congratulations and welcome to all those taking the oath of citizenship.
The United States is stronger today because of you.

Heartfelt thanks to all the staff and volunteers at Center for New Americans for making this celebration possible.

-Senator Jo Comerford



“CONGRATULATIONS!

to everyone participating in today's service.

You make our community a better place.

With gratitude to the Center for New Americans and all that you do to support our immigrant neighbors.”

- State Representative Mindy Domb

413/461-2060 or mindy.domb@mahouse.gov

LINDSAY SABADOSA

State Representative ★ 1st Hampshire District

☎ 413-270-1166 ✉ info@lindsaysabadosa.com



Congratulations!



★ IG: Bluesky: @SabadosaMA

★ Facebook: @LSabadosaMA

District Office: 76 Gothic Street, Northampton MA 01060

State House Office: State House, Room 160, Boston MA 02133



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Thank You!



In addition to our colleagues, board of directors, and legislative leaders, who are acknowledged throughout the program, Center for New Americans thanks:

The Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants
(our citizenship program funder)

Our event partners:

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

The Executive Office of the Trial Court

Federal Magistrate Kenneth P. Neiman

Court Clerk Melissa Rivera

The League of Women Voters, Northampton Chapter

Amherst Boy Scout Troop 504

Vocal Artist Baillee DiStefano

Mpress Bennu, Moving Mountains Media

Volunteers who set up and take down chairs and tables

Our business sponsors

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The immigrants who inspire our effort



Mass General Brigham
Cooley Dickinson Hospital



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Congratulations New Americans!

Best wishes from your friends at River Valley Co-op



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Celebrate The Arts & Embrace New Beginnings



At Franklin First, we believe in the power of community, creativity and new beginnings. This July 4th, as we honor the vibrant contributions of the arts and welcome new citizens into the heart of our nation, we invite you to celebrate with us!

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New Citizen Spotlight



Carla De Souza Wood

Carla De Souza Wood is an immigrant from Brazil. When she came to the U.S., she met someone who told her about Center for New Americans. She enrolled in English classes in Center for New Americans' Greenfield center. She started in a beginner level class and progressed through the high intermediate class. She learned that Center for New Americans could also assist her with her citizenship application. She went through the citizenship application process with Center for New Americans' legal team and was sworn in as a U.S. citizen in September. She extends heartfelt thanks to the entire Center for New Americans team of teachers, advisors, program coordinators, and legal colleagues.





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—JOHN F. KENNEDY



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CELEBRATING COMMUNITY



A smile never gets lost in translation.

We might not all speak the same language,
but a smile is universal.

Please join us in welcoming our newest neighbors
with open arms, doors, and opportunities.

Always,
Florence Bank.



[florencebank.com](https://www.florencebank.com)

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In Remembrance



We remember dedicated friends who participated in this event for many years and are no longer with us. Their spirit and contributions live on in this ceremony.



Deputy Court Clerk, Maurice Lindsay

Vocal Artist, Evelyn Harris

DJ Legend, Kevin Spivey



WELCOME TO OUR
NEW CITIZENS

OUR SHARED COMMUNITY IS
MUCH RICHER FOR THE
TRADITIONS THAT YOU BRING!

**Marisa Labozzetta
& Martin Wohl**





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Countries of Origin





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Welcome!



@cnaforimmigrants



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