

PRESS RELEASE
Jacksonville, Florida, February 27, 2020
For Immediate Release

FEDERAL COURT CONTINUES ITS OUTREACH

On February 25, 2020, just two weeks after hosting the first naturalization ceremony in a Duval County Public School, the federal court broke ground once again. As part of its continuing effort to educate students about the importance of United States citizenship and the federal judiciary, the judges of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida conducted the first ever Naturalization Ceremony to be held in a state courthouse in Duval County.

The Honorable Timothy J. Corrigan, U. S. District Judge, presided at a ceremony held in the Duval County Courthouse in which 50 applicants for United States citizenship from 27 countries took the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States. Over 200 students and teachers representing all of the civics classes of the Lavilla School of the Arts and San Jose Episcopal Day School witnessed the ceremony and at the same time were exposed to both the federal and state judiciaries.

The federal court was hosted by Ronnie Fussell, Clerk of Court, at the Duval County Courthouse. Other state court judges attended and participated in the ceremony. In addition to Judge Corrigan, United States District Judge Marcia Morales Howard participated in the ceremony. Lisa Bradley, Field Office Director of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, presented and certified the applicants for citizenship. Students from LaVilla led the new citizens in their first Pledge of Allegiance and the LaVilla vocal ensemble inspired those in attendance with their renditions of *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful*.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was The Honorable Tatiana Salvador, Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. Coming from a family of naturalized citizens, Judge Salvador shared the inspirational story of her family with the students, new citizens and their families.

Judge Corrigan says, “the judiciary has an important role to play in civics education, and the judges of the U S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, will continue to pursue innovative ways to make civics education come alive for students and adults alike so they can better understand our democracy and how it works.”

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Media Inquiries:

Suzanne M. Judas

Community Outreach Coordinator

Jacksonville Chapter, Federal Bar Association

(904) 910-0354