



District Court of Guam
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CHAMBER OF
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DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM NATURALIZATION CEREMONY Court Celebrates Law Day

On Friday, April 25, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., the District Court of Guam will host a special Law Day Naturalization Ceremony where the Court will welcome and witness America's 55 newest citizens take the oath of citizenship. This will be a momentous event for our new citizens, who hail from the countries of Japan, People's Republic of China, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

The Honorable Robert J. Torres, Jr., Chief Justice of Guam, will give the keynote address on this special day. We also welcome a special guest, First Lady of Guam, Christine M.S. Calvo.

This year's Law Day theme, "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters," calls on us to reflect on the 50th anniversaries of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the importance of protecting every citizen's right to vote. Law Day also provides an opportunity for our citizens to recognize the role of courts in our democracy and to promote public understanding of the rule of law and the role of the legal profession. "The right to vote is a privilege granted to every American citizen. Historically, this has not always been the case. Today, all Americans, regardless of race and gender, may participate in our democratic form of government. We will encourage our newest American citizens to do just that – take an active part in our democratic form of government, exercise those privileges, because now they can," remarked Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood.

To further encourage the newly naturalized citizens to fully exercise their rights, the court will also host a Citizenship Outreach Program. Immediately after the naturalization ceremony, the new citizens may register to vote and apply for a U.S. passport, provided they have appropriate supporting documentation for the application. Representatives from the Guam Election Commission and the Guam Passport Office will be present after the ceremony to assist these new citizens with any questions.