

News Release



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Burlington Vicinage to Hold Naturalization Ceremony

Jose L. Linares, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, will preside over a naturalization ceremony with acting Assignment Judge Jeanne T. Covert for 18 Burlington County residents on Thursday, Sept. 27.

The ceremony, part of the vicinage's celebration of Constitution Week, will be held at 10 a.m. in the historic Olde Courthouse, 120 High St., Mount Holly.

"We are honored to have Judge Linares join us to celebrate this event and proud to bring to our newest 'fellow Americans' the benefits and honor of American citizenship," Judge Covert said.

The Rancocas Valley High School JROTC will open the ceremony by presenting the colors. Students from Rancocas Valley High School will sing the national anthem and students from Sacred Heart Elementary School will recite the preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

Before the Oath of Allegiance is administered, Keith Dorr, supervisory immigration services officer for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will present the applicants, who come from 13 countries.

Remarks will be delivered by Judge Linares as well as Ya-Mei Chen, field office director for the Department of Homeland Security; Christina Cottingham of the Willingboro-Burlington Chapter of the New Jersey Orators; Burlington County Bar Association President Jennifer Stonerod, and Shereen Chen, attorney from the law firm of Chen Gray Law Group LLC. Gift bags will be presented to the new citizens by the New Jersey Daughters of the American Revolution.

Judge Gerard Breland will close the ceremony by singing *America the Beautiful* and Judge Covert will read a proclamation declaring Constitution and Citizenship Day. This year marks the 231st anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

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