



AILA Citizenship Day 2008

**American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
Saturday, April 19, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Are You a Lawful Permanent Resident? Would you like to apply for U.S. Citizenship?

- If you have been a Permanent Resident for the last five years (or for the last three years if you are married to an American citizen) and you are at least 18 years old, you may qualify for United States citizenship through the naturalization process.
- To be an U.S. citizen, you must demonstrate that you possess a basic understanding of English, including reading, writing and speaking, UNLESS:
 - You are more than 50 years old and have lived in the United States as a Permanent Resident for a total of at least 20 years, OR
 - You are more than 55 years old and have lived in the United States as a Permanent Resident for a total of at least 15 years.

Benefits of being a United States Citizen:

- You can apply for an immigration visa for your spouse, children, parents and siblings, usually without waiting for a visa.
- You can avoid the risk of being deported. (A U.S. citizen cannot be deported for a criminal conviction, but an immigrant can be deported for a criminal conviction.)
- You will have the right to vote.
- You will have a U.S. passport which will make it easier to travel to and from the United States.

How to Participate:

- If you believe you qualify for U.S. citizenship, bring all of the documents listed on the other side of this sheet to **207 Fulton E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503** between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on April 19, 2008
- A volunteer AILA attorney will help you fill out the citizenship application at the clinic or advise you regarding possible reasons why you should not apply (for example, certain criminal convictions). A \$ 20 donation will be requested.

Co-sponsored by: Justice for Our Neighbors West Michigan, a project of the United Methodist Committee on Relief; Diocese of Kalamazoo Immigration Assistance Program



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LIST OF ITEMS TO BRING TO AILA CITIZENSHIP DAY

EVERYONE MUST BRING:

- 2 Passport Photos (**NOT** profile photos)
- Check or money order for \$675 payable to Department of Homeland Security
- Your Permanent Resident Card
- Copy of last year's tax filing

BRING IF APPLICABLE:

- If your current legal name is different from the name on your Permanent Resident Card, bring the documents that legally changed your name (marriage certificate, divorce decree or court document).
- If you have ever been arrested or detained, provide the date, nature of the crime or offense, and the outcome. Also, bring all of the court documents related to the crime or offense.
- Proof of termination of ALL prior marriages (divorce decree(s), annulment(s), or death certificate(s))
- If you have ever failed to file an income tax return since you became a Permanent Resident, bring all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regarding your failure to file.
- If you have any federal, state, or local taxes that are overdue, bring a signed agreement from the IRS or state or local tax office showing that you have filed a tax return and arranged to pay the taxes you owe; AND documentation from the IRS or state or local tax office showing the current status of your repayment program.
- If you are male, bring your Selective Service number and date of registration if you have that information.

Questions? Call Justice for Our Neighbors at (616) 301-7461.

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April 19, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Justice for Our Neighbors offices
First Place Building
207 Fulton E
Grand Rapids, MI 49503