

CINCINNATI, OHIO CHAPTER



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**Local Immigration Attorneys Will Provide Free Citizenship Assistance on
02.27.2016**

Cincinnati, Ohio – The Ohio of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) will host its Annual Citizenship Day event on 02.27.2016 at Peaslee Center, 215 E 14th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Each year, at sites across the country, AILA attorneys and other stakeholders provide assistance to lawful permanent residents eligible for naturalization. Last year, AILA and its partner “ya es hora ¡Ciudadanía!” held more than 50 naturalization clinics in 22 states and the District of Columbia serving thousands of immigrants who aspired to become citizens.

Eligible applicants are invited to Cincinnati, Ohio local event which will be held at:

Peaslee Center, 215 E 14th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202
9 am-2 pm

Several AILA Attorneys will be joined by volunteers to help eligible local immigrants apply for citizenship.

Press who wish to attend must register by emailing nazly.mamedova@wanglaw.net.

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The American Immigration Lawyers Association is the national association of immigration lawyers established to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members.

Citizenship Day

- Estimates are that there are more than eight million lawful permanent residents (green card holders) living and working in the United States who qualify for naturalization – becoming a U.S. citizen.
- Over the past ten years, more than 6.6 million lawful permanent residents became naturalized citizens: over ¾ of a million people in FY 2013, and over 650,000 people in FY 2014.
- Becoming a U.S. citizen is an important decision for an immigrant and their family; it's not something one does at the drop of a hat but requires not only a demonstrated commitment to America and its values, but a lot of paperwork and fees.
- We know there are a lot of obstacles that can prevent a green card holder from becoming a citizen – whether it's just not knowing where to start, not knowing what questions to ask, or, not knowing where to go for answers.
- Each year, AILA and its members partner with other organizations to hold Citizenship Day events where eligible applicants can get help with their paperwork, ensure they are filing correctly, and a sense of what's next in their quest for citizenship.
- The workshops are designed to provide comprehensive assistance to immigrants wishing to take their first steps toward naturalized U.S. citizenship.
- General eligibility requirements for naturalization include:
 - Be at least 18 years of age;
 - Be a lawful permanent resident (green card holder);
 - Have resided in the United States as a lawful permanent resident for at least five years, three years if married to a US citizen and living in marital union, or under certain other circumstances.;
 - Have been physically present in the United States for at least 30 months, 18 months for one married to a USC.;
 - Be a person of good moral character;
 - Be able to speak, read, write and understand the English language;
 - Have knowledge of U.S. government and history; and
 - Be willing and able to take the Oath of Allegiance.
- Language assistance at our Citizenship Day event in Cincinnati will include English, Spanish, Russian, and Uzbek. If there are immigrants who hesitate to come because they don't think someone will speak their language, we hope this language expertise will calm those fears.

*You will **not** be tested at the workshop.*

Naturalization Eligibility

- Be at least 18 years old by the date you file
- Have been a lawful permanent resident for at least the last five years (or three years, if married to a U.S. citizen).
- Have been present in the U.S. for 2-1/2 of the past five years (or 1-1/2 of the past three, if married to a U.S. citizen), and have not been outside the U.S. for one year or more within the last five years (or three years, if married to a U.S. citizen)
- Have been a resident of the state from which you are filing your application for at least three months
- Be able to speak, read and write ordinary English
- Be able to pass a U.S. history and government exam
- Be a person of "good moral character" (this will be difficult to establish if you have failed to pay child support, taxes, or have been convicted of certain crimes, among other things)
- Be willing to take an oath of loyalty to the U.S.



What to Bring to Citizenship Day

Everyone

- Your Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)
- \$ 680 filing + biometric fee in form of check or money order made to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (no fee if active military or on public assistance – bring proof of status or letter from Jobs and Family Services)
- 2 color passport photos
- List of home addresses for the past five years and the dates during which you resided at these addresses
- List of employer names and addresses for the past five years, including the dates you worked with these employers
- Dates you have been outside of the U.S. since becoming a permanent resident and the countries you traveled to during these trips. Bring your passport, itineraries, tickets to track all trips made outside the USA.
- Your children's complete names, dates of birth, and their A#s (alien registration numbers) if they have one
- Your most recent tax return
- If possible, bring an interpreter to translate

Other documents

- **If the name on your green card is different than your current legal name:**
Bring the documents that legally changed your name (marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court document).
- **If you are applying for US citizenship based upon a marriage to a US citizen bring:**
 - Proof your spouse had been a citizen for the past 3 years (spouse's birth certificate, naturalization certificate, certificate of citizenship, US passport, or form FS240);
 - Current marriage certificate;
 - Proof of termination of all prior marriages of your spouse (divorce decrees, annulment, or death certificates);
 - Document showing that you and your spouse are still living together (examples: tax returns, bank statements, leases, mortgages, birth certificates of your children, IRS-certified copies of income taxes for the past 3 years or IRS tax return transcript for the last 3 years).
- **If you have been married more than one time:**
 - Bring proof that ALL earlier marriages ended (Divorce decree(s), annulment(s), or death certificates(s)).
- **If you have taken a trip outside of the US lasting longer than 6 months since becoming a Permanent Resident:**
 - Bring IRS tax return "transcript" for last 5 years (or last 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen)

- Rent or mortgage payments;
- Pay stubs.
- **If you have a dependent spouse or children who do not live with you bring:**
 - Any court order to provide financial support;
 - Evidence of your financial support (examples: cancelled checks, money orders receipt, evidence of wage garnishments, or letter from parent or guardian who cares for your children).
- **If you think you have been arrested, detained, or if you have had to appear before a court for any reason whether in the last five years or earlier:**
 - Bring ALL documents relating to the arrest, conviction, court appearance, and final disposition.
 - **EXCEPTION**--Minor traffic violations (examples: parking tickets, speeding tickets).
- **If your federal, state, or local taxes are overdue (or you have failed to pay them):**
 - Bring copies of any documents, letters, or papers you sent to or received from the government about the problem.
- **Selective Service:** In general, all men ages 18 to 25 present in the U.S. (regardless of citizenship or immigration status) are required to register for the U.S. Selective Service. Only men who are in the U.S. in valid nonimmigrant status (i.e. on a student, temporary worker, or visitor's visa) while age 18 to 25 are not required to register. If you were required to register at any time when you were in the U.S., even if you are at an age which does not require you to register now, please bring proof of your registration.
 - If you do not have proof of your registration, you can go to the Selective Service web site (www.sss.gov), enter your name, Social Security number, and birth date, and make a printout showing that you registered. Bring this print out with you. Or you can call (847) 688-6888 or (847) 688-2576 to get proof that you registered. You should submit this with your naturalization application.

Questions? Email: nazly.mamedova@wanglaw.net, Call: 513-793-7776