

PREFACE

U.S. citizens enjoy precious rights, privileges, and responsibilities that are absent in many countries. These include voting, running for office, petitioning for family members, serving on a jury, and applying for federal jobs. *AILA's Guide to U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Law*—an invaluable addition to any immigration attorney's reference library—will help practitioners support clients as they pursue these and other venerated aspects of U.S. citizenship.

In this comprehensive compilation, renowned immigration attorneys have generously contributed their articles, cover letters, and sample forms to help their peers of all experience levels competently handle U.S. citizenship and naturalization matters.

The first few chapters of the book discuss the various ways that a foreign national already might be a U.S. citizen by virtue of birth in this country (the long-standing common law concept of *jus soli*), or by derivative or automatic citizenship. Next are chapters dedicated to legal issues that attorneys might encounter when completing the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, as well as preparing clients for the naturalization interviews and oath ceremonies. This guide also explains the process by which lawful permanent residents serving in the U.S. Armed Forces can become U.S. citizens. For this particular subject, AILA has the honor of hearing from a recent MacArthur Fellow, Margaret Stock. The last few sections of the book address the pros and cons of appealing a denial of a client's naturalization application, or perhaps litigating the issue in court. Finally, the rest of the book is dedicated to ancillary issues related to U.S. citizenship, including tax implications, false claims to U.S. citizenship, and dual citizenship.

President Abraham Lincoln once said: "Let us at all times remember that all American citizens are brothers of a common country, and should dwell together in the bonds of fraternal feeling." It is with this spirit of unity and common cause that our nation continues to welcome those newly minted citizens, endowed with cherished rights, privileges, and responsibilities that allow them to fully contribute to American life.

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