



**Stronger, More Inclusive Democracy:  
 Looking Towards the Next 10 Years  
 NAC National Naturalization Practitioners' Conference  
 Jersey City, NJ  
 April 28-30, 2022**

**Thursday, April 28, 2022 – [Historic Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal](#)  
 1 Audrey Zapp Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305**

		Room
7:45 & 8:00 am	<b>Shuttles leave from the Canopy Hotel                      159 Morgan Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302</b> <i>Shuttles will be on Steuben Street around the corner from the hotel. There will be two pick-up times from the Canopy Hotel (7:45 &amp; 8:00). Please be punctual!</i>	
8:00-9:00 am	<b>Conference Registration &amp; COVID-19 Check</b> <i>Pick up nametag and conference packet, sign the COVID-19 waiver, and show proof of vaccination.</i>	<b>Registration table at Entrance of Concourse</b>
8:30-9:30 am	<b>Breakfast &amp; Networking</b>	
9:30-10:30 am (60 minutes)	<b>Conference Welcome and Kickoff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Remarks from Lucia Martel-Dow, Director of New Americans Campaign, ILRC</li> <li>• Greetings from New Jersey DEP Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette</li> <li>• Greetings from Geri Mannion, Managing Director, Carnegie Corporation of New York, introducing Mayor Steven M. Fulop</li> <li>• Greetings from Jersey City Mayor, Steven M. Fulop</li> <li>• Quick Introduction of All Sites</li> <li>• Overview of Conference and Announcements (Lucia, ILRC)</li> </ul>	<b>Concourse</b>
10:30-10:45 am	<b>Break: 15 minutes</b>	

<p>10:45-12:00 pm (75 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Partnering with State and Municipal Agencies to Support Naturalization</b>  <i>Discussion of ideas and strategies for working with public agencies to secure funding, establish partnerships, and deepen collaborations to increase public support for naturalization efforts.</i>  Moderator: Lucia Martel-Dow, Director of New Americans Campaign, ILRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily Chum, Director of Social Services, Self-Help for the Elderly</li> <li>• Michael J. McLean, Director, Jersey City Division of Immigrant Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services</li> <li>• Wojciech Zolnowski, Executive Director, International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit</li> </ul> <p><b>Engaging Volunteers in Naturalization Work</b>  <i>How to create a pipeline of long-term volunteers who can support naturalization efforts and discuss strategies around recruitment and training.</i>  Moderator: Juan I. Rosa, National Director of Civic Engagement, NALEO Educational Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tamara Bloom, Managing Attorney, Community Events, CUNY Citizenship Now!</li> <li>• Pablo Blank, Director of Immigrant Integration, CASA</li> <li>• Rosana Donoso Barredo, Washington New Americans Senior Manager, One America</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach &amp; Engagement with the Diverse Community of Black LPRs in the United States</b>  <i>This session will highlight the diversity of Black LPRs, challenges they might face in the naturalization process, specific service delivery needs, opportunities for outreach and engagement, and open a dialogue on how to best support our Black LPR communities in the US.</i>  Moderator: Tessa Petit, Co-Executive Director, Florida Immigrant Coalition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Asirifi-Otchere, Executive Director, United African Organization</li> <li>• Voffee Jabateh, CEO &amp; Founder, African Cultural Alliance of North America Inc.</li> <li>• Karlene Maxwell-Williams, Citizenship Coordinator, Florida Immigrant Coalition</li> </ul>	<p>Security Room</p> <p>South Tunnel</p> <p>Concourse</p>
<p>12:00-1:00 pm (60 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Lunch - Informal Networking Time &amp; Photo Opportunity</b>  <i>Photo Opportunity:</i> Leave your mark! Find the NAC backdrop, and using the whiteboard, write "What does Naturalization mean to you?" A photographer will be available to take pictures.</p>	<p>Concourse &amp; Optional Tables Outside</p>
<p>1:00-2:30 pm (90 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Jersey City &amp; New York Regional Discussion for Promoting Naturalization (Jersey City and New York organizations only)</b>  Moderator: Michael J. McLean, Director, Jersey City Division of Immigrant Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services</p>	<p>Concourse</p>

	<p><b>Success Stories in Communication and Outreach</b>  <i>Practical training and successful implementation stories about naturalization outreach through social and print media, including (but not limited to) Facebook and Instagram Live.</i>  Moderator: Julissa Salcedo, Immigration Caseworker and Outreach Specialist, IRC Turlock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magaly Alvarado, Associate Director, Hispanic Unity Florida</li> <li>• Ricky Leung, Program Director, North Carolina Asian Americans Together</li> <li>• Xavier Vazquez Baez, Program Manager Immigration Department, Centro La Familia</li> </ul> <p><b>Naturalization Case Escalation and Standards for Fee Waivers</b>  <i>Advocates who represent citizenship naturalization applicants face multiple hurdles in resolving procedural, legal and factual challenges to their clients' applications by USCIS. This panel will describe ways to escalate cases that are delayed, have had erroneous interpretations by USCIS, or are subject to extreme vetting procedures despite apparent eligibility for naturalization. The panelists will describe case escalation at the local and national levels to resolve issues for clients and describe the filing of a petition for a writ of mandamus. In addition, many applicants face challenges to naturalization in the fee waiver process. Panelists will describe the standards for fee waivers and the channels to advocate for clients when fee waiver eligibility is challenged.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peggy Gleason, Senior Staff Attorney, ILRC</li> <li>• Mary Clark, Philadelphia Citizenship Action Network (P-CAN) Coordinator, HIAS Pennsylvania</li> </ul>	<p>South Tunnel</p> <p>Security Room</p>
<p>2:30-2:45 pm</p>	<p><b>Break and Snack: 15 minutes</b></p>	<p>Concourse</p>
<p>2:45-4:15 pm (90 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Supporting Asylees and Refugees in their Pathway to Naturalization</b>  <i>This panel will discuss the unique needs and barriers faced by asylee and refugee communities when it comes to naturalization and how organizations can best provide services and support for this community.</i>  Moderator: Vishal Trivedi, Gay Men's Health Crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raad Yousif, DOJ Accredited Representative, Chaldean Community Foundation</li> <li>• Corleen Smith, Director of Immigration Services, International Institute of Minnesota</li> <li>• Amber Mull, Deputy Director, Immigration, International Rescue Committee</li> </ul> <p><b>Naturalization Working Group - In person and phone session</b>  Moderator: Rosalind Gold, Chief Public Policy Officer, NALEO Educational Fund</p> <p><b>Best Practices in Civic Engagement</b>  <i>This session will focus on current NAC civic engagement efforts and brainstorm other opportunities. How can partners support people going from naturalized citizens to becoming civically engaged?</i>  Moderator: Laura Vazquez, Associate Director of Immigrant Integration, UnidosUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adriana Jaramillo, Senior Program Specialist, Immigrant Integration, UnidosUS</li> <li>• Nicole Melaku, Executive Director, National Partnership for New Americans</li> <li>• Elizabeth Bille, Texas State Director, NALEO Educational Fund</li> </ul>	<p>South Tunnel</p> <p>Security Room</p> <p>Concourse</p>

4:30-4:45 pm	<b>Return to Hotel</b> <i>Everyone will be shuttled back to the hotel for a break and to get ready for dinner!</i>	
6:30-9:00 pm	<b>Drinks and Dinner</b> <i>All conference attendees are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation at a nearby restaurant. Note: The dinner is for conference attendees only. Please do not bring spouses, children, or friends.</i>  <i>Traveling back to your hotel after dinner is on your own.</i>	<b>Rooftop Terrace at <a href="#">The Ashford</a>,</b> 145 Newark Ave, Jersey City, NJ

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7:45 & 8:00 am	<b>Shuttles leave from the Canopy Hotel</b> <b>159 Morgan Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302</b> <i>Shuttles will be on Steuben Street around the corner from the hotel. There will be two pick-up times from the location (7:45 &amp; 8:00). Please be punctual!</i>	
8:00-9:00 am	<b>Breakfast &amp; Vaccination Check (only for new attendees)</b>	<b>Concourse</b>
9:00-10:30 am (90 minutes)	<b>All-NAC Session: Innovative Workshop Approaches During the Pandemic and Beyond</b> <i>This session will showcase innovative service delivery models. Panelists will explain their models, highlight benefits and challenges. Discussion among participants regarding the service model in their location and how they can fit or adopt some of the models or practices being discussed.</i> Moderator: Lucia Martel-Dow, Director of New Americans Campaign, ILRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thuwadara Goldman, Network Manager, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – LA</li> <li>• Norma Trinidad-Diaz, Community Organizer, CVIIC</li> <li>• Vanessa Joseph, Supervising Attorney, Catholic Legal Services of Miami</li> <li>• Oskary Vanessa Hatfield, North Bay Program Coordinator, Immigration Institute of the Bay Area</li> </ul>	<b>Concourse</b>
10:30-10:45 am	<b>Break: 15 minutes</b>	
10:45-12:15 pm (90 minutes)	<b>Supporting API Outreach and Naturalization</b> <i>This panel will explore best practices related to outreach targeting API (Asian/Pacific Islander) LPR communities, discussing opportunities and challenges.</i> Moderator: Thuwadara Goldman, Network Manager, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – LA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Samantha M. Salamon, Manager of Legal Services, Asian Services in Action (ASIA)</li> <li>• Candice Gage, Senior Attorney, International Institute of Akron</li> <li>• Eric Jeng, Director of Outreach, Asian Community Development Council (ACDC)</li> <li>• Kahina Guenfoud, Adult Literacy and Digital Access Coordinator, SEAMAAC</li> <li>• Khathy Hoang, Associate Vice President of Community Impact &amp; Development, YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles</li> </ul> <b>Naturalization for Persons with Disabilities</b> <i>Immigration law provides a waiver of the English/Civics requirement for persons with certain disabilities who are applying for naturalization. The disability waiver N-648 is</i>	<b>South Tunnel</b>          <b>Concourse</b>

	<p><i>frequently challenged by USCIS. Recent changes to the form and USCIS policy manual have made the waiver even more difficult to obtain. This panel will describe the statute, regulations, and the USCIS policy manual pertaining to disability waivers, and will explain best approaches for successful submission of such waivers. The panelists will also describe reasonable accommodations that can be requested by naturalization applicants and describe the requirements and process for requesting an oath waiver.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peggy Gleason, Senior Staff Attorney, ILRC</li> <li>• Ruby Robinson, Managing Attorney, Michigan Immigrant Rights Center</li> </ul> <p><b>Naturalization: The Basics of Non-Crimes Good Moral Character</b>  <i>One of the many requirements for naturalization is good moral character. During this training we will review the basics of good moral character, including how activities such as failure to pay child support, failure to register for the Selective Service, failure to file taxes, illegal voting, and false claims to citizenship can impact one’s naturalization application. We will review real hypotheticals in good moral character determinations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric Cohen, Executive Director, ILRC</li> </ul>	Security Room
12:15-1:15 pm (60 minutes)	<p><b>Lunch with Table Discussions</b>  <i>Each table will have a list of suggested conversation topics. These questions are intended to provide you with an opportunity to share best practices. You are welcome to sit at any table.</i></p>	Concourse
1:15-2:45 pm (90 minutes)	<p><b>Overview of Large Workshops and Example of Saturday Workshop</b>  <i>This session is recommended for those attending the Saturday workshop.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shawn Rahman, Esq. Managing Attorney, Training and Capacity Building, CUNY Citizenship Now</li> </ul> <p><b>Developing and Sustaining Naturalization Programs</b>  <i>This session will discuss program management best practices focused on naturalization, and how to strengthen and develop naturalization programs.</i>  Moderator: Ben Brokaw, Project Coordinator, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crystal Gonzalez, Manager of Citizenship Services, BakerRipley</li> <li>• Whitney Kweskin, Immigration Services Manager, New American Pathways</li> <li>• Renata R. Bozzetto, Director of Development &amp; Strategy, Florida Immigrant Coalition</li> </ul> <p><b>Creating Content to Support Naturalization and Citizenship Civics Test Preparation</b>  <i>This session will discuss the changes that applicants face regarding test preparation and highlight examples of how organizations have been able to overcome these challenges and support clients with test preparation.</i>  Moderator: Marisol Ramirez, Director of Programs, OCCORD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magaly Alvarado, Associate Director, Hispanic Unity Florida</li> <li>• Samantha Pascal, Naturalization Coordinator, Catholic Migration Services of Brooklyn</li> <li>• Lemine M’Bareck, Immigration Legal Services Manager, Canopy of Northwest Arkansas</li> <li>• Mariana Sanchez, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Bonding Against Adversity</li> </ul>	<p>Concourse</p> <p>South Tunnel</p> <p>Security Room</p>
2:45-3:00 pm	<b>Break and Snack: 15 minutes</b>	Concourse

<p>3:00-3:45 pm (45 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Citizenshipworks</b> <i>Update to the Citizenshipworks platform and new features</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra Sandoval, Citizenshipworks Program Manager, Immigration Advocates Network</li> </ul> <p><b>Innovation Grant Best Practices</b> <i>Streamlining naturalization services with innovative digital strategies: three success stories.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Leah Muse-Orlinoff, PhD, Consultant, Immigrant Legal Resource Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navil Canal, Attorney, CHIRLA</li> <li>• Sophia Soberon, Program Coordinator, The Cambodian Family Community Center</li> <li>• Marisol Turincio, Campaign Manager, Employee Rights Center</li> </ul>	<p><b>Concourse</b></p> <p><b>Security Room</b></p>
<p>3:45-4:45 pm (60 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Site Reflections &amp; Report Back, Wrap-Up, and Thanks</b> <i>Groups split by site for 30 min and plan next steps after the conference. Site leads will report back complete evaluations.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Lucia Martel-Dow, Director of New Americans Campaign, ILRC</p>	<p><b>Concourse</b></p>
<p>4:45-5:00 pm (weather permitting)</p>	<p><b>Group photo in front of the Statue of Liberty</b> <i>Optional – some shuttles will go to photo location and others will return to the hotel.</i></p>	
<p>5:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Return to Hotel</b> <i>Everyone will be shuttled back to the hotel!</i></p>	

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING!**



**National Naturalization Practitioners' Conference**

**Saturday, April 30, 2022**

**Naturalization Workshop**

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

524 West 59th Street (between 10th and 11th Avenues)

New York, NY 10019

8:00 am	<b>Buses depart from Canopy Hotel, Jersey City</b>
9:00 am	<b>Volunteer arrival time</b>
9:00-9:45 am	<b>Volunteer check-in, breakfast and orientation</b>
10:00 am	<b>Volunteer tour &amp; first appointment time slot for participants</b>
12:00-2:00 pm	<b>Rotating lunch schedules</b>
2:30 pm	<b>Final appointment time slot for participants</b>
2:30-6:00 pm	<b>Wrap up remaining participants and breakdown the event</b>
6:00 pm	<b>End of workshop</b> <i>Note: travel to the hotel, airport, etc. Is on your own</i>

**Thank you so much for attending!**