

[Forums / General Discussion](#)[Help](#)

citizenship rights in territories

✉ You are subscribed. [Unsubscribe](#)

🔖 No tags yet. [+ Add Tag](#)

Sort replies by: [Oldest first](#) [Newest first](#) [Most popular](#)

[Albert Ho](#) · a day ago 🔒

I know that the people born in the territories of the US are not legally considered citizens. However, I was wondering if this had any constitutional basis.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[Juan Torres](#) · 6 hours ago 🔒

Albert; you are not entirely correct. Puerto Rico is a US territory and people born there ARE US citizens! I can't speak about the other territories, maybe someone else can enlighten us.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

[Albert Ho](#) · 5 hours ago 🔒

I'm sorry, i guess i phrased it very badly. I guess more than anything I'm wondering why people born in Samoa aren't considered U.S. citizens even though it is a US territory. Thanks for bringing up the point of Puerto Rico though, that did slip my mind while typing my original post. That brings up an even more troubling question for me though, why Puerto Ricans are granted citizenship while Samoans is not.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)



[Anthony Gary Brown](#) Signature Track · 4 hours ago 🔒

Albert - American Samoa is indeed the *only* US territory where Congress has declined to award automatic citizenship to those born there. I'm not sure why that's the case; but I do know it cuts both ways, as Samoa has some property and inheritance laws that would not pass Constitutional muster if the islands gained fuller US rights.

BTW, some Samoans recently brought a Federal suit arguing that Congress could not deny their

citizenship "rights" as these were Constitutional in origin. But the Federal court has just tossed that suit out. Don't know if it's being appealed, but I suspect that an appeal court would decline it, as precedent seems so very clear-cut:

<http://jurist.org/paperchase/2013/06/federal-judge-dismisses-american-samoans-birthright-citizenship...>

Gary B.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

New post

To ensure a positive and productive discussion, please read our [forum posting policies](#) before posting.

B	<i>I</i>			Link	<code>	Pic	Math		Edit: Rich ▼	Preview
<div></div>										

☐ Make this post anonymous to other students

☒ Subscribe to this thread at the same time

Add post

