

California: Promise To Speed Naturalization Applications

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Body

Immigration authorities have agreed to complete 90 percent of **naturalization applications** from immigrants in Southern **California** within six months, in a lawsuit settlement that was approved by a federal judge in Santa Ana. The suit was filed in 2007 by the National Immigration Law Center and the American Civil Liberties Union, on behalf of immigrants seeking to become citizens whose **applications** had stalled for years because of delays with background checks. As a result of the suit, the court required the F.B.I. and Citizenship and Immigration Services to report regularly on their progress in reducing backlogs nationwide. Linton Joaquin, general counsel for the law center, said the agencies had significantly reduced the backlogs, with about 400 cases remaining in the Los Angeles area covered by the settlement.

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