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AILA, NALEO Educational Fund, and the National Partnership for New Americans Team Up for Virtual and In-Person Citizenship Events

*Organizations offer more than 20 events as part of a national effort
on and around Saturday, February 12, 2022*

Washington, D.C. – The [American Immigration Lawyers Association \(AILA\)](#), the [National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials \(NALEO\) Educational Fund](#), and the [National Partnership for New Americans \(NPNA\)](#) are proud to sponsor AILA Citizenship Day, taking place virtually and in-person on Saturday, February 12, 2022. In its 16th year, AILA Citizenship Day brings together attorneys, affiliates, law students, paralegals, interpreters, and members of the community who can help lawful permanent residents (LPRs) take the final steps toward U.S. citizenship. This effort will result in dozens of naturalization clinics in cities, towns, and online forums across the country.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, millions of lawful permanent residents or “green card holders” are potentially eligible to naturalize.

With free advice and assistance being offered during this nationwide event, AILA Citizenship Day aims to help green card holders who have not yet completed the naturalization process. AILA Citizenship Day’s success relies on partnerships with NALEO Educational Fund, the nation’s leading nonprofit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process; NPNA, which brings together the 49 largest regional immigrant and refugee rights organizations in 34 states; and AILA chapters throughout the country.

AILA Executive Director Benjamin Johnson stated, “AILA Citizenship Day is such an inspirational event in the lives of our staff, members, and communities across the country. I was so proud last year when our partners and chapters built out a virtual option so we could continue this incredibly important work despite the pandemic, and that we can offer both in-person and virtual opportunities this year as well. Working with our vital partners in this effort, we will be able to help aspiring Americans finish their journeys.”

“It is vital that lawful permanent residents who have shown loyalty to this country, contributed to its economy, and made it their home have the information they need on their journey to U.S. citizenship,” said **Arturo Vargas, CEO at NALEO Educational Fund**. “These members of our society deserve a

system that makes obtaining that citizenship an accessible process. We are committed to providing free guidance and resources on the citizenship process through our toll-free, national bilingual hotline (**888-839-8682**) — open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (ET)."

"We are committed to continue working with partners, allies, and municipal leaders to promote access to citizenship. We strongly believe that eligible LPRs have the right to participate in our democracy and call this country their home," said **Nicole Melaku, Executive Director, National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA)**. NPNA encourages LPRs to start their naturalization process by participating in this year's AILA Citizenship Day."

More information on AILA Citizenship Day can be found on [AILA's website](#).

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About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.

About AILA

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.