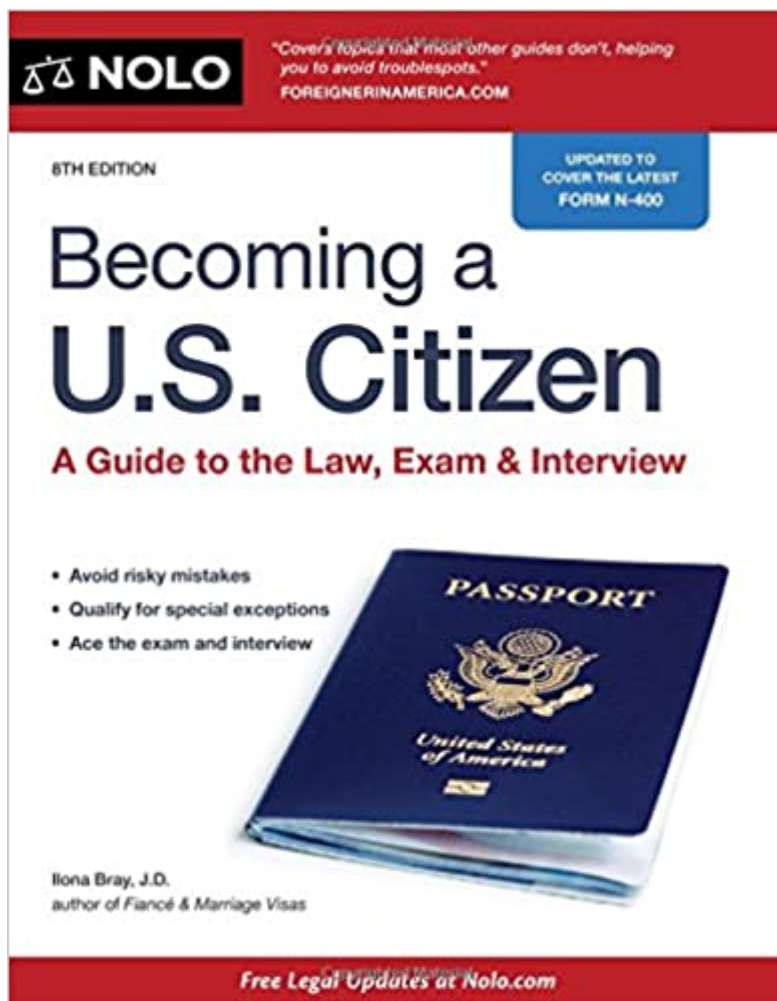


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# Becoming A U.S. Citizen: A Guide To The Law, Exam & Interview



## Synopsis

Everything you need to become a naturalized U.S. citizenFor a green card holder, taking the next step to U.S. citizenship offers a host of benefits. But the application process itself can be long and confusing. With *Becoming a U.S. Citizen*, you can save months, or even years. Best of all, you'll know that you are taking each needed step in the most efficient way. Learn how to: make sure you are eligible for citizenship understand the risks and rewards of applying fill out application forms study for the citizenship exam interview successfully deal with any setback help family members immigrate enjoy your status as a U.S. citizen *Becoming a U.S. Citizen* also shows how you may be able to take advantage of special benefits and procedures if you have a disability, are in the military, or are the spouse of a U.S. citizen. This new edition reflects current and proposed laws, as well as new fees and procedures.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The best, most accurate explanation of immigration laws for nonlawyers thus far." *Immigration Law Today*. "Now in an updated eighth edition covering the latest "Form N-400", *Becoming a U.S. Citizen: A Guide to the Law, Exam & Interview* is a practical, reader-friendly guide to making the transition from green card holder to naturalized U.S. citizen, thereby earning benefits including the right to vote, the opportunity to apply for certain federal jobs, faster immigration for family members, protection against deportation, and more. Chapters discuss how to discern whether one is eligible for citizenship, the risks and rewards of applying, how to fill out application

forms, preparing for the citizenship exam as well as interviews, and much more. It should be noted that the publisher's website [nolo.com](http://nolo.com) includes a wealth of resources for prospective American citizens, such as legal updates to *Becoming a U.S. Citizen* and in-depth profiles of immigration lawyers in one's area. While *Becoming a U.S. Citizen* cannot substitute for the counsel of a trained attorney, it is a "must-read" and worthy of the highest recommendation, even (especially!) if one retains the services of a lawyer." Library Bookwatch, The Midwest Book Review

Everything a green card holder needs to know in order to decide when and whether they have met the eligibility criteria for U.S. citizenship, as well as how to successfully study, apply, and deal with bureaucratic difficulties or delays.

Good information, everything is on point regarding the proper way to fill the form and the documents needed for the application. Highly recommended!

great info in the book!

I've worked with ESL students a good bit, and recently helped a Syrian lady obtain her US citizenship. She'd failed the test three times, had spent a great deal of money on an immigration lawyer who did nothing for her, and felt hopeless. Since I knew next to nothing about the citizenship process when my student and I began, I was very interested in reviewing this book to evaluate it against our experience. It's very good. It's exhaustive, and goes through every detail, possible pitfall, form and preparation necessary. If anything, it may be TOO detailed and intimidating to a prospective new citizen! It's certainly a great handbook. After working with my student, and reading through this book, I have a profound respect for the citizenship process. It's designed to be easy where it needs to be; for example, the N-400 form is not difficult to fill out, hand written answers are acceptable, and what I considered potentially problematic vague answers that were due to the difference in how physical addresses are written in the UAE and Syria, were fine. I loved that the entire N-400 application with sample handwritten answers, is reproduced in this book. It's an excellent guide. There's a section on special circumstances, and worst case scenarios that seems to be helpful, though I've had no experience with those. Just as an aside, the N-400, in addition to questions about criminal records, asks some zingers like, "Have you ever committed a crime for which you were not arrested?" The history and government test is very difficult. It should be. I doubt many natural born US citizens could pass it. It's especially trying for non-English speakers. This

book does not pretend it's not hard. It does provide the answers to the 100 questions from which the exam is taken, and there's a very well done capsule history of the US to give context. The biggest stumbling block in the road to citizenship for my student was the interview. She spent months memorizing the government and history facts phonetically (no easy thing) and did perfectly on the written exam, but when faced with the (male) interviewer, her cultural background kicked in and all her English fled. She thought he was a bit rude, had an accusing tone in his voice, and totally came unglued. She failed the interview three times, though she did fine on the written English part. I was SO interested in seeing how this book advised handling the interview. The book does address hostile or rude examiners, but explains that often the officer is jaded or tired. Just so. It briefly touches on cultural differences and advises the examinee to look directly at the examiner, no matter what the examinee's cultural background. It also recommends the videos provided online. I can say from experience, they're great at demonstrating what and what not to say and do. My student and I spent several hours role-playing every possible interview scenario, with every possible type of interviewer; answering in complete sentences, and asking the interviewer politely to restate confusing or unclear questions. The book suggests that, too. In summary, this book is an excellent guide. There's no way around a whole lot of hard work on the future citizen's part, and this book doesn't suggest that there is. There's also no way around a rudimentary knowledge and ability to speak English, nor should there be. It wasn't until after I took my student on a series of field trips to stores, restaurants, and meetings of various organizations, and got her to the point where she could express herself fairly well in English, that she passed the interview. It's not easy, but it's not impossible, and I have the utmost respect for the dedication and hard work our newest citizens must put into becoming part of the US.

Great for people who will like to become an American citizen.

This book covers how to obtain US citizenship from start to finish. People who already have a Green Card and who are serious about becoming citizens will find the information in this book invaluable. The book mentions early on who is not eligible for US citizenship. Committing domestic violence or child abuse makes one ineligible, as well as being a member of the Nazi party. This book is written to guide a Green Card holder through the long application process, so this book is good to have and read thoroughly by chapter. There are ten basic steps to follow and this book guides the applicant through it. Applicants will learn basic immigration law, how to prepare for the interview, how to learn basic English, and how to study for the citizenship test. There are sample applications

to be familiar with and certain verbiage that the applicant must know, and the applicant must have all required paperwork correctly filled out. There is also valuable information for those with disabilities. Filing fees for the N-400 Naturalization Application is now tiered, with most applicants paying \$680 (\$595 + \$85 biometric fee) Applicants over 75 years of age do not pay a biometric fee, and those in the US military need not pay that fee at all. This book references the official website, [uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov), quite often. Forms can be downloaded from that site.

This is a guidebook to becoming a U.S. Citizen. It covers the law, the interview process and the exam. My wife is currently a green-card holder and is preparing to become a citizen. One of her friends has already completed the process. Combining the experience of her friend and the information in this book, the preparation process and what to expect has become a lot more clear. What I like about this book is that it covers a lot of ground. It starts with a narrative about the pros and cons of becoming a citizen. Useful? Maybe. Most people buying this book have already made this decision. The next chapter is on eligibility. There is a lot of highly relevant information in here that you need to know. The following chapter discusses preparing and submitting your application. There is great information in this section as well as a detailed section on filling out the paperwork itself. As with all US Government paperwork, it isn't easy and that's why lawyers make tons of cash off prospective applicants. This book helps you fill it out yourself (preferably with some help from a second pair of eyes). Chapter 4 discusses the period between filing and the interview along with expected wait times. Chapter 5 discusses preparing for the English Exam. USCIS has study materials such as flash cards for preparing for the English test. Research this and read this chapter. Chapter 6 discusses preparing for the US History Exam. If you're already serious about becoming a citizen of the U.S. then you no doubt know about the civics flash cards from USCIS. They are a great tool to add to your toolbox of preparation items. Chapter 7 talks about disabilities and how they affect the application process. Chapter 8 discusses the interview itself. There is a sample interview. I was pleased to see the book warning about the personalities / moods of the interview staff. Not everyone will be nice. This happened to my wife's friend; her interviewer was rude and rushed and generally intolerant of any delays. Others have had the complete opposite experience. Chapter 9 discusses denials, appeals and repeat interviews. It is not the end of the world if you don't pass the first time. This chapter has some wisdom for those who need to retake. Chapter 10 gives sound advice about lawyers and what to expect when retaining a lawyer. Chapter 11 talks about the process after you are approved: the ceremony, proof of citizenship, registering to vote and the citizenship of your children. This book should not be the only

resource you have to prepare for becoming a US Citizen. However, it should be one of the resources you acquire. When you're done reading it and pass your citizenship then kindly loan it to another person attempting the process. Overall - I would recommend this guide - it has a lot of up-to-date information and resources to help you in your journey to becoming a citizen.

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