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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

United States of America, Plaintiff, v. Pavittar Singh, Defendant.	No. CV-26-_____ **COMPLAINT TO REVOKE NATURALIZATION**

The United States of America brings this civil action, supported by the accompanying Affidavit of Good Cause, against Pavittar Singh to revoke his naturalized United States citizenship under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a) because Mr. Singh illegally procured his naturalization.

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF THE CASE

In May 1997, an immigration judge denied an application that Mr. Singh submitted for an immigration benefit and ordered him to be deported from the United States. While subject to the deportation order, Mr. Singh left the United States and traveled to (1) India for 62 days in May 2003 and (2) the United Kingdom, Norway, and Canada for 26 days in July 2005.

By statute, and as courts—including this one—have held, an individual who departs the United States while subject to an order of removal or deportation is inadmissible for 10 years after the date of departure from the United States. 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(ii); *see also, e.g.*, *United States v. Hirani*, 824 F.3d 741, 752 (8th Cir. 2016); *United States v. Brown*, No. 18-cv-4213, 2019 WL 5549174, at *2 (D. Ariz. Oct. 28, 2019).

In November 1997, Mr. Singh obtained lawful permanent residence, and he naturalized as a United States citizen in August 2008. However, due to his international travel, Mr. Singh was inadmissible in August 2008 and, in fact, from July 2005 (when, while subject to the deportation order, he last departed the United States prior to naturalizing) until and including July 2015 (10 years after that departure from the United States).

Because Mr. Singh was inadmissible and ineligible for naturalization, he illegally procured his United States citizenship and, therefore, his naturalization is subject to revocation under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a). Accordingly, the United States respectfully requests that the Court revoke and set aside the order admitting Mr. Singh to citizenship and cancel his certificate of naturalization.

II. PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

1. Plaintiff is the United States of America.

2. Defendant is Pavittar Singh, who is a native of India and a naturalized United States citizen.

3. This is an action under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a) to revoke and set aside the order admitting Mr. Singh to United States citizenship and to cancel his Certificate of Naturalization No. [redacted]

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1345 for a cause of action under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a).

5. Venue is proper in this District under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Mr. Singh resides in this judicial district.

III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Mr. Singh Is Ordered Deported.

6. On or about November 18, 1992, Mr. Singh filed an application for an immigration benefit with the Immigration and Naturalization Service ("INS").[1]

7. On August 12, 1994, INS served Mr. Singh Form I-221 Order to Show Cause and Notice of Hearing ("OSC") charging him as deportable pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(1)(B) because he entered the United States without inspection.

8. The OSC ordered Mr. Singh to appear for a hearing before an Immigration Judge of the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR").

9. On May 27, 1997, at Mr. Singh's hearing, the immigration judge ordered Mr. Singh deported from the United States to India.

10. Mr. Singh failed to depart the United States pursuant to that order.

B. Mr. Singh Obtains Permanent Resident Status.

11. On March 7, 1996, Mr. Singh filed with INS Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status.

12. On November 7, 1997, INS approved Mr. Singh's Form I-485, granting him permanent resident status.

C. Mr. Singh Departs the United States.

13. On January 31, 2008, Mr. Singh filed with USCIS Form N-400, Application for Naturalization (Form N-400), signed on January 28, 2008.

14. On his Form N-400, Mr. Singh represented that he departed the United States on May 24, 2003; traveled to India; and returned to the United States on July 25, 2003.

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[1] On March 1, 2003, the INS ceased to exist, and many of its relevant functions transferred to DHS and its sub-agencies, including United States Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS"). *See* Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-296, 110 Stat. 2135 (Nov. 25, 2002). The United States references "INS" or "USCIS" where factually appropriate.

15. On his Form N-400, Mr. Singh represented that he departed the United States on July 5, 2005; traveled to the United Kingdom, Norway, and Canada; and returned to the United States on July 31, 2005.

D. Mr. Singh Becomes a Naturalized Citizen.

16. On July 30, 2008, Mr. Singh's Form N-400 was approved.

17. On August 22, 2008, Mr. Singh was admitted as a citizen of the United States.

18. Mr. Singh was issued Certificate of Naturalization No. [redacted]

IV. GOVERNING LAW

19. No alien has a right to naturalization "unless all statutory requirements are complied with." *United States v. Ginsberg*, 243 U.S. 472, 474-75 (1917).

20. The Supreme Court has underscored that "[t]here must be strict compliance with all the congressionally imposed prerequisites to the acquisition of citizenship." *Fedorenko v. United States*, 449 U.S. 490, 506 (1981); *see also id.* ("An alien who seeks political rights as a member of this Nation can rightfully obtain them only upon the terms and conditions specified by Congress.") (quoting *Ginsberg*, 243 U.S. at 474)).

21. Congress enacted 8 U.S.C. § 1451 to address situations in which an individual has "illegally procured" citizenship.

22. Citizenship is "illegally procured" if the applicant failed to comply with any of the congressionally imposed prerequisites to the acquisition of citizenship. *Fedorenko*, 449 U.S. at 506.

23. Under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a), an order of naturalization is subject to revocation and a certificate of naturalization is subject to cancellation if naturalization was illegally procured.

24. Failure to comply with any of the congressionally imposed prerequisites to the acquisition of citizenship renders the citizenship "illegally procured." *Fedorenko*, 449 U.S. at 506.

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25. Where the United States establishes that the defendant's citizenship was procured illegally, "district courts lack equitable discretion to refrain from entering a judgment of denaturalization." *Fedorenko*, 449 U.S. at 517.

V. CAUSE OF ACTION

COUNT I

ILLEGAL PROCUREMENT OF NATURALIZATION
Noncitizen Ordered Removed

26. The United States re-alleges and incorporates by reference the factual and legal allegations contained in Sections I through IV of this Complaint.

27. An individual who departs the United States while subject to an order of removal or deportation is inadmissible for 10 years after the date of departure from the United States. 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(ii).

28. Mr. Singh was inadmissible under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(ii) at the time of his naturalization in 2008 because he was subject to an order of removal issued in 1997 and departed the United States in 2003 and again in 2005.

29. Because Mr. Singh was inadmissible, he was ineligible for naturalization under 8 U.S.C. § 1429.

30. Because Mr. Singh was ineligible for naturalization, he illegally procured his naturalization.

31. Because Mr. Singh illegally procured his naturalization, his naturalization is subject to revocation under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the United States of America respectfully requests:

(1) A declaration that Mr. Singh procured his citizenship illegally;

(2) Judgment revoking and setting aside the order admitting Mr. Singh to citizenship and canceling Certificate of Naturalization No. [redacted], effective as of the original date of the order and certificate, August 22, 2008.

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(3) Judgment forever restraining and enjoining Mr. Singh from claiming any rights, privileges, benefits, or advantages related to United States citizenship that he obtained as a result of his August 22, 2008, naturalization;

(4) Judgment requiring Mr. Singh to surrender and deliver, within 14 days of the entry of judgment against him, his Certificate of Naturalization No. [redacted] and any copies thereof in his possession—and to make good faith efforts to recover and immediately surrender any copies thereof that he knows are in the possession of others—to the Acting Attorney General through his designee, including undersigned counsel;

(5) Judgment requiring Mr. Singh to immediately surrender and deliver, within 14 days of entry of Judgment, any other indicia of United States citizenship, including, but not limited to, United States passports (whether valid or expired), United States passport cards (whether valid or expired), and Enhanced Driver's Licenses (whether valid or expired), and other relevant documents, whether current or expired, and any copies thereof in his possession or control—and to make good faith efforts to recover and then surrender any copies thereof that he knows are in the possession or control of others—to the Acting Attorney General through his designee, including undersigned counsel; and

(6) Judgment granting the United States such other relief that may be lawful and proper in this case.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED September 3, 2026.

TIMOTHY COURCHAINE
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District of Arizona

/s/ Lon R. Leavitt

LON R. LEAVITT
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