What's New in the 2026–2027 Edition

This edition of the *U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Handbook* includes discussion of:

- *Trump v. Barbara*, wherein the Supreme Court reaffirmed *Wong Kim Ark* and held that a child born in the United States is a U.S. citizen at birth regardless of the parents' immigration status, because such children are "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment
- Exec. Order No. 14418, Continuing to Protect the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship, and related Department of State regulations which broaden the classes of children who do not automatically become citizens even though born in the U.S.
- *Lopez v. Bondi*, wherein the Fourth Circuit held that Salvadoran law legitimated the child but did not establish paternity and therefore the child derived citizenship through his mother
- USCIS Policy Memorandum PM-602-0188 (Aug. 15, 2025), which instructs adjudicators to not only determine whether the applicant committed some act barring the applicant from showing good moral character, but to undertake "a holistic assessment of an alien's behavior, adherence to societal norms, and positive contributions that affirmatively demonstrate good moral character"
- The current Administration's holistic approach to examining good moral character, including the resumption of neighborhood investigations
- USCIS Policy Alert PA-2025-20, Good Moral Character, Unlawful Voting, and False Claim to U.S. Citizenship in the Naturalization Context (Aug. 29, 2025), which addresses the impact of unlawfully voting on an individual's naturalization application
- USCIS' policy related to testimonial or character reference letters from neighbors, employers, coworkers, and business associates
- Changes to the civics test portion of the naturalization process
- Updated reproductions of forms and instructions
- Updated addresses for filing citizenship applications