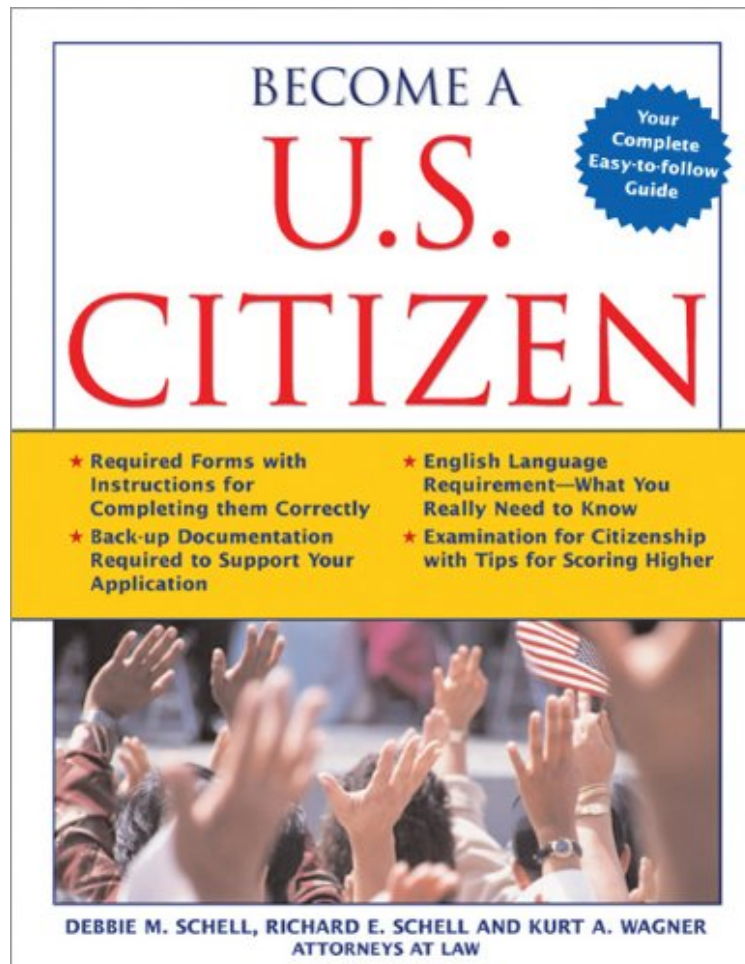


## Become a U.S. Citizen

*Kurt Wagner, Debbie Schell, Richard Schell*  
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**Kurt Wagner, Debbie Schell, Richard Schell : Become a U.S. Citizen** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Become a U.S. Citizen:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very useful, but needs updating since 2007By luluVery useful , but needs updating since 2007.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Competent guide for wannabe AmericansBy Thomas W. SulcerThis book is a competent guide for resident aliens seeking to navigate the often haphazard and arbitrary process required for becoming an official United States citizen. There's helpful advice, some documentation, tips for scoring better on a citizenship exam, outlines of basic strategies, and practice tests. It's general advice, probably not comprehensive, but useful. It's written for aspiring citizens seeking security from deportation, government jobs, no more fuss with green cards, and seeking to sponsor relatives faster. The large typeface is suited for older readers.While this book won't substitute for a shrewd, tough, honest immigration lawyer, particularly for difficult cases, it does have basic advice in clear straightforward English such as emphasizing the importance of

achieving permanent resident alien status first before applying. There are helpful worksheets and line by line instructions for dealing with USCIS Form N-400 (the necessary application). The glossary of terms in the back is somewhat sparse. The list of words to know "a, and, blue, ..." makes one wonder how this book is supposed to help non-readers? Most likely, a literate helper will teach a struggling non-English speaking relative basic English to slip them through the gate. What the authors hide is that "American citizenship" is a shallow, meaningless term which is more accurately called "membership in America". Still, membership is a valuable goal, worth applying for, because resident aliens won't be deported and will have access to government jobs, benefits, and be recognized by government as belonging here. But citizenship should be a relation between the person and the state which is active, ongoing, and voluntary with specific responsibilities (military service, staying informed about politics, local political participation, voting, jury duty, obeying laws) as well as privileges (police protection, rights in courts). Ideally it should be a contract between person and state, voluntarily chosen by people and celebrated publicly with an oath declaring loyalty to the nation. Real citizens should control government collectively. Further, citizens have a commitment to other citizens to protect them if government becomes tyrannical. For readers interested, see my book "Common Sense II: How to Prevent the Three Types of Terrorism" () which elaborates on citizenship; I argue only real citizens can really prevent terrorism. But most Americans today aren't real citizens. They have little interest in local government, don't know who their congresspersons are, don't follow local politics, don't show up, often don't bother to vote (typically only half of Americans vote although the last election was an exception). Americans born here are never asked: do they want to become a citizen? Rather, it's presumed. So native-born Americans don't have to grapple with what citizenship means. And local governments have little real power so it doesn't make sense to participate locally. Americans are political zombies, frustrated apathetic persons better described as "consumers" lacking any meaningful capacity for self-governance. The only way to restore our democracy, in my view, is to summon a Second Constitutional Convention; it will convene beginning July 4, 2009 in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. I doubt most Americans could pass the authors' easy practice test about government basics. We elect a U.S. representative for how many years? Two years, say the authors; but this is false -- after winning, a representative will stay in office for life (correct answer) because it is practically impossible for a challenger to unseat him or her. Congressional re-election rates are over 90% because of rigged rules with free mailings, gerrymandering, access to cash (see Ginsberg's "The American Lie"). Who does a U.S. Senator represent? The authors say: all people of the state. Again, wrong because senators represent themselves (correct answer), plus corporate and union clients, lobbyists, not people like you and me. If the Constitution is supposedly the law of the land, then why do authors like Kevin R. C. Gutzman write books entitled "Who Killed The Constitution?" That the authors devote two pages to the Pilgrims and Thanksgiving suggest the citizenship process is borderline farcical. This book is an effective outline for wannabe Americans to navigate the difficult shoals of becoming a "citizen", with helpful information about residency requirements and practical tips for answering a superficial citizenship exam. It will teach resident aliens about Thanksgiving turkeys and gravy which is important to know, unfortunately, for convincing skeptical immigration officers that one is ready to be a real American. This book won't replace a sharp immigration lawyer. People who slip past the immigration gate and become Americans should not think they're real citizens but really consumer-members like the rest of us, and for them, let me say, welcome to America! Thomas W. Sulcer author of "The Second Constitution of the United States" (free on web -- google title above + sulcer)

Passing the U.S. citizenship examination is no easy task. However, the actual test is just one aspect of the entire process of becoming a U.S. citizen. Understanding the complete process, from start to finish, is the true key of achieving your dream. Become a U.S. Citizen can help turn that dream into a reality. Focusing on the many paths to citizenship, it guides you through the entire process and helps cut the time it takes to become a citizen. This important resource gives you everything you need to successfully understand each of the steps toward achieving citizenship. - The required forms with instructions for completing them correctly- The back-up documentation required to support your application- The examination for citizenship with tips for scoring higher- The English language requirement-- what you really need to know- The interview--how to say what you want to say, and not what you don't- Plus, common problems and how to avoid them

From the Back Cover Making the Path to Citizenship Easier Passing the United States citizenship examination is no easy task. However, the test is just one step in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen. You need to understand the complete process, from start to finish, to achieve your dream of becoming a U.S. citizen. Written by three immigration attorneys, Become a U.S. Citizen takes you through the entire citizenship process. This guide provides tips and suggestions for anyone who needs information and guidance on the path to becoming a U.S. citizen. This essential resource explains everything you need to know, including: --Instructions on how to complete required forms--The documentation required to support your application--Information on the citizenship examination, with tips to improve your score--The English language requirement--what you really need to know--The interview--what you should say--Common problems and how to avoid them Become a U.S. Citizen gives you the information you need to become a

U.S. citizen easily and quickly!

**About the Author**

**Kurt A. Wagner, MBA, JD (Magna Cum Laude)** is an attorney, author, university lecturer, and founder of the Law Offices of Kurt A. Wagner with offices in Illinois and Austria. He is a member of the Immigration and International Law Section of the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, and the Washington, D.C. Bar Association. He formerly served as a U.S. Department of State Consular Officer with experience in visa processing at U.S. embassies abroad. He teaches classes on legal topics at the University of Klagenfurt and the Carinthia Technical Institute in Austria, and served as Editor-in-Chief of the Southern Illinois University Law Journal.

**Debbie M. Schell, JD** is an attorney and author who practices with the Law Offices of Kurt A. Wagner. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the Immigration and Nationality Law Committee of the Chicago Bar Association. Her experience with immigration began early, when her mother immigrated to the United States from Jamaica and her father came from Belize. She has edited legal forms books as well as works on the law of asylum. Her clients include refugees, as well as individuals and companies seeking help with immigration issues. In addition, she has extensive experience with human rights issues related to employment and housing.

**Richard E. Schell, JD** is an attorney, author, and serves of Counsel to the Law Offices of Kurt A. Wagner. He has extensive legal editing and researching experience with a major legal publisher and in the areas of international law, immigration law, and agricultural law. He studied international law at the University of Notre Dame in London. He is also a frequent writer and speaker on international legal topics and small business development.