

Res Judicata in Matters of Citizenship

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SUBJECT: RES JUDICATA IN CITIZENSHIP

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The Article discusses the application of the doctrine of *res judicata* to citizenship cases. It opens by first giving a brief background on the said doctrine, particularly on its general application and the very few exceptions to it. It then examines the naturalization process in the Philippines by looking at the following aspects: (1) its nature as a grant instead of as an adversary proceeding; (2) ways of illegal or fraudulent procurement; and (3) its conclusiveness. This discussion is done by comparing judicial decisions covering the subject.

The Article also examines the different types of declaration of citizenship, including their effects and conclusiveness, in relation to the applicability of *res judicata*.