

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY

# Consulate Report Directory

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

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(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

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**THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY****Introduction**

The Consulate Report Directory is a continually expanding collection of actual expatriation appointment experiences.

Almost everyone reports their consulate meeting to be somewhere ranging from a very positive to neutral experience. You'll note words such as "pleasant and professional," "friendly" and "helpful" cropping up quite a bit in these reports.

Serious problems are pretty rare. The Directory can help you avoid them.

When it comes to glitches, remember that these consulates have been hit with a tidal wave of expatriations, and a lot of the glitches in earlier reports have been worked out as the consulates adapt to the phenomenon. One particular, and important, development in this regard is that more and more consulates have changed from 2 visits to 1 in order to cope with the volume. Consequently, waiting time for an appointment has decreased significantly in many locations since our first reports were received.

We have only found serious attitudinal problems towards expatriation at one consulate and we warn you about that in the directory so you can avoid going there.

At one other consulate, people have found that, although the staff is very good to interact with, they've run into very frustrating procedural hassles. We've been told that that consulate is planning to taken steps to alleviate this. We've noted of this in their section, and will update this note as soon as such policies go into effect.

You can expatriate at any US consulate regardless of where you live. We have learned this from both consular and DOS HQ officials. Several Brockers have expatriated at a consulate outside their consular district.

You'll see that there are some variations in procedure at different consulates. However, despite these deviations, it should be conducted as an administrative procedure, not an adversarial one. Harassment or obstruction should not occur and are, in fact, against DOS policy.

We hope these reports will help you prepare for your consulate visit in a practical sense and also put your mind at ease as they'll give you a view of just what transpires. In the unlikely event you run into a problem, let us know, we have some experience in getting a situation straightened out.

Thank you to everyone who has shared their story! Keep them coming ... it's a new experience for everyone and the information is really helpful.

You can post your reports or questions on the Consulate Report Directory thread or by e-mail to [pacifica.isaacbrocksociety@gmail.com](mailto:pacifica.isaacbrocksociety@gmail.com)

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# **On-Line Resources about Relinquishment and Renunciation of US Citizenship**

For more information on procedure and what to expect at your consulate meeting/s as well as background information:

- **Isaac Brock Society:** [Consulate Report Directory thread](#)
- **Isaac Brock Society:** [Relinquishment and Renunciation Data thread](#)
- **Isaac Brock Society:** [Relinquishment and Renunciation Discussion thread](#)
- **Renunciation Guide:** [Renunciationguide.com](#)
- **US Dept of State:** [The Department of State manual for Loss and Restoration of U.S. Citizenship, 7 FAM 1210](#)
- **US Dept of State:** [The Department of State manual for Developing a Loss-of-Nationality Case 7 FAM 1220](#)
- **US Dept of State:** [The Department of State manual for Naturalization and Oath of Allegiance to a Foreign State 7 FAM 1250](#)
- **US Dept of State:** [The Department of State procedure manual for renunciation, 7 FAM 1260:](#)
- **US Dept of State:** [The Department of State manual for Loss of Nationality and Taking up a Position in a Foreign Government 7 FAM 1280](#)

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# Department of State Forms

These are the forms for **renunciation**

**4079. Request for determination of loss of citizenship.** Important for relinquishments, is not strictly required for renunciations (according to the DOS procedure manual) but it seems most consulates ask for it. *This has four pages of questions, requiring dates; it's best to fill it out in advance of your consulate meeting.*

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/97025.pdf>

**4080. Oath of renunciation**

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/81606.pdf>

**4081. Statement of understanding of consequences**

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/81607.pdf>

**4083. Certificate of loss of nationality**

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/81609.pdf>

If you **have already relinquished** your citizenship (eg. upon obtaining citizenship in another country) **and are now applying for a CLN:**

**4079. Request for determination of loss of citizenship.** *This has four pages of questions, requiring dates; it's best to fill it out in advance of your consulate meeting.*

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/97025.pdf>

**4081. Statement of understanding of consequences**

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/81607.pdf>

**4083. Certificate of loss of nationality**

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/81609.pdf>

**Statement.** A very good idea to supplement your 4079 with a statement or affidavit to show that your relinquishment was intentional and that your post-relinquishment conduct has been consistent with relinquishment.

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### ***The Immigration and Nationalities Act, s. 349(a)***

There are seven ways by which one can relinquish one's US citizenship, as set out in the *Immigration and Nationalities Act*, s. 349(a). [8 USC 1481].

**Renunciation** (349(a)(5)) is the only act of relinquishment which takes place at a US consulate, and the citizenship loss occurs by taking the renunciation oath at the consulate.

In the case of **other acts of relinquishment**, eg naturalisation in another country with intent to relinquish (349(a)(1)), the citizenship loss occurs at the time of the act, but to make it effective for practical purposes, you must notify the US government of it by attending at a US consulate, where you sign the prescribed forms (information about and links to form, see page 3).

#### ***Immigration and Nationalities Act, s. 349(a)***

**“A person who is a national of the United States whether by birth or naturalization, shall lose his nationality by voluntarily performing any of the following acts with the intention of relinquishing United States nationality-**

**(1) obtaining naturalization in a foreign state** upon his own application or upon an application filed by a duly authorized agent, after having attained the age of eighteen years; or

**(2) taking an oath or making an affirmation or other formal declaration of allegiance to a foreign state** or a political subdivision thereof, after having attained the age of eighteen years; or

**(3) entering, or serving in, the armed forces of a foreign state** if  
(A) such armed forces are engaged in hostilities against the United States, or  
(B) such persons serve as a commissioned or non-commissioned officer; or

**(4) (A) accepting, serving in, or performing the duties of any office, post, or employment under the government of a foreign state** or a political subdivision thereof, after attaining the age of eighteen years if he has or acquires the nationality of such foreign state; or

**(B) accepting, serving in, or performing the duties of any office, post, or employment under the government of a foreign state** or a political subdivision thereof, after attaining the age of eighteen years for which office, post, or employment an oath, affirmation, or declaration of allegiance is required; or

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*... continued ... Immigration and Nationalities Act, s. 349(a)*

**(5) making a formal renunciation of nationality** before a diplomatic or consular officer of the United States in a foreign state, in such form as may be prescribed by the Secretary of State; or

(6) making in the United States a formal written renunciation of nationality in such form as may be prescribed by, and before such officer as may be designated by, the Attorney General, whenever the United States shall be in a state of war and the Attorney General shall approve such renunciation as not contrary to the interests of national defense; or

(7) committing any act of treason against, or attempting by force to overthrow, or bearing arms against, the United States, violating or conspiring to violate any of the provisions of section 2383 of title 18, United States Code, or willfully performing any act in violation of section 2385 of title 18, United States Code, or violating section 2384 of said title by engaging in a conspiracy to overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the Government of the United States, or to levy war against them, if and when he is convicted thereof by a court martial or by a court of competent jurisdiction. “

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**Renunciation and Relinquishment:  
What is the Difference? Is there a Difference?**

We often use separate terms for “renunciation” and “relinquishment” since there are some notable differences between renunciation and the other methods of terminating one’s US citizenship. However, renunciation is actually one of the 7 methods of relinquishment, as set out in Immigration and Nationalities Act, s. 349(a). This post explains some of the similarities and differences.

**RENUNCIATION – Immigration and Nationalities Act, s. 349(a)(5)**

Renunciation is only form of relinquishment where the relinquishing act itself takes place at a US consulate. It is performed by taking the oath of renunciation (form 4080). Form 4081 (Statement of understanding of consequences) is also required. Form 4079 (Request for determination of loss of citizenship) is not strictly required, but the DOS procedure manual does state that “it may prove useful” regarding intent and it seems that most consulates do require it.

Depending on the consulate, renunciation may take one or two visits. Most have required two visits, but there appears to be a trend to switch to one visit, and I’m aware of one consulate, London, which now does the first “visit” by telephone. Brock has been informed by the Consul General for Canada in November 2012 that all consulates in Canada have now been instructed to conduct renunciations in 1 visit.

Since July 2010, there has been a \$450 fee for renunciation. This fee is payable at the visit where you sign your papers.

In the case of renunciation, the loss of citizenship is effective, for all purposes, as of the date you sign the forms at the consulate.

**RELINQUISHMENT BY OTHER MEANS – Immigration and Nationalities Act, s. 349(a)(1)(2)(3)(4)(6)(7)**

**See next page.**

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### **RELINQUISHMENT BY OTHER MEANS – Immigration and Nationalities Act, s. 349(a)(1)(2)(3)(4)(6)(7)**

Of the remaining 6 methods of relinquishment, the most common means is by naturalisation in a foreign country s. 349(a)(1) with the intent of relinquishing one's US citizenship.

[This is of particular interest in Canada because whilst over 100,000 US-born Canadian citizens believe themselves to be "Canadian Citizen Only," according to the 2006 census, it's believed that almost none have a Certificate of Loss of Nationality because we were told we terminated our US citizenship automatically upon taking Canadian citizenship, particularly prior to 1990 when the administrative presumption changed, and almost no one seems to have even heard of a CLN before 2011.]

In the case of relinquishment not done by renunciation (eg. naturalisation), although the loss of citizenship occurs at the moment the relinquishing act is performed, the relinquishment is not effective in the eyes of the US government until the US government is notified by signing forms at a US consulate.

Required forms are 4079 (Request for determination of loss of citizenship) and 4081 (Statement of understanding of consequences). It's also a very good idea to supplement your 4079 with a statement illustrating your intent, how your post-relinquishment conduct has been consistent with lack of US citizenship.

When you attend at the consulate regarding this type of relinquishment, you're essentially notifying them that you already have relinquished. Consequently, this requires only one consulate visit. Vancouver and Ottawa were requiring two, but I've been informed that they are have now switched to one (November 2012).

There is no fee for processing relinquishments done under these sub-articles.

Once this is done, the US government will consider the loss of citizenship effective as of the date of the actual relinquishment (this date will appear on your CLN), except IRS will consider the loss to have occurred on the date you signed the forms at the consulate.

[This IRS policy might not apply to renunciations prior to 2004, although experts are not in agreement on that. Brock posts If your expatriation date is before 2004 and Did you relinquish before February 6, 1995 discuss this matter.]

--- Pacifica



**THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY****Consulate Report for  
Australia (unspecified consulate)**

Thanks to all you generous Brockers for your information and insights. I just recently started reading your posts and thought I would share my experience obtaining my CLN earlier this year in Australia. I was able to get an appointment at my nearest consulate within a week and was told I would need to go back for a 2nd appointment to actually renounce, in order to give me time to reflect on my decision before proceeding. My second appointment was 2 weeks later. I needed to take in my current passport, birth certificate, and proof of my Australian citizenship. I no longer had my most recent (but expired) passport and it didn't present a problem. I was told my signed oath and documents would be scanned and sent to the CLN processing office in Washington D.C. along with their report on my case. I understood the decision to accept or reject my renouncement was made by the consular staff. They told me there are very few staff working in the CLN processing office in Washington so the length of time to receive mine would depend on their workload at any given time. I couldn't fault the consular staff who were extremely courteous and professional at all times. They were very efficient and quick in submitting my docs to Washington and I was pleasantly surprised to find my CLN in the mail less than one month later. Hooray!

--- Rose, 2012.11

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### Consulate Report for Belgium, Brussels

**(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)**

First appointment: I was the only person in the entire consulate and that the consular officer was extremely friendly and only asked me shortly “why do you want to renounce”, to which I responded with a one sentence answer relating to dual loyalty issues and that was the end of it. The entire meeting took maybe 10 minutes. They said that they try to schedule renunciation appointments when there is nobody else around due to it being a private issue. Very respectful I thought.

At the consulate, they gave me the 3 forms (4079, 4080, 4083) at the first appointment and asked me to send back the oath (4080) and the CLN (4083) before my second one and to bring along the questionnaire (4079). Every consulate seems to operate differently, with the main rule now being that all want you to pay the \$450 upfront at the meeting and not afterwards like before.

Second appointment: As with my first appointment there was nobody else in the waiting room and it was very private. The staff were very friendly and professional. I had to read aloud a page of information to make sure that I understood that renouncing did not allow me to transmit citizenship to children, get me out of military or tax obligations and that I would be an “alien” in the future (only in the US...just say foreigner already!). I also had to place my right hand on the oath of renunciation whilst facing the US flag and orally recite the oath. I think that this would have been a bit awkward if the waiting room had been full of people (or anyone really), because the flag was in the centre of the room.

After the appointment I was given a receipt with my name on it for the \$450 (paid in Euro), which clearly states that it was for renunciation of US citizenship. They didn't really know how long that the CLN should take to arrive, but said that there was a backlog earlier in the year which has since been cleared somehow by some sort of new procedure that they are doing. I didn't ask for any copies of anything, since I definitely got the impression that they would be giving these out later on only. To be honest, the receipt is perfectly adequate for me at the moment and I didn't push the point since I am not being rendered without a passport in the meantime. They of course took the US passport during the appointment and said that they would give it back with the CLN, which I will pick up in person. They also made a copy of my EU passport.

I just wish that I didn't have to wait so long to be able to file the 8854, 1040 and FBARS for this year. Anyway, I'm not really celebrating yet or anything since I don't feel like everything is done until I have the CLN in hand! I do, however, owe a huge thanks to everyone at the IBS and to those of you who were also on the old Expat Forum for all of the guidance and experiences that you have shared – It was much easier to figure everything out with a strong community supporting me and everyone else going through this! Thanks everyone.

--- Don Pomodoro, 2012.06 (CLN received 2012.08)

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2012.12.06

# Consulate Report for Canada, Calgary

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

My Calgary Consulate renunciation experiences...

My situation:

I am a dual citizen by birth (Canada and U.S.) with a U.S. birthplace. I am a younger person and I have resided in Canada and my family's home province for the last 10 years. I always travel on a Canadian passport and I have not been overly-scrutinized at the U.S. border about my birthplace. I have never been given any trouble at air crossings (*i.e.*, I was treated as a normal Canadian) but 1 land crossing from Windsor to Detroit in the early days of the 2003 Iraq war saw a few extra questions... "Why are you posing as a Canadian?" and "Where is your American passport?". I was not advised to obtain a U.S. passport during that interrogation. That was almost 10 years ago and I crossed many more times at the very same land crossing (and 3 others), without any more questioning than a typical Canadian would expect (*e.g.*, "Where are you going?", "How long will you be there?", "Any alcohol or tobacco?", *etc.*). I am not fully established in my career yet, but I know that my profession will put my future earnings into jeopardy if I want to remain compliant with the IRS. I am compliant with my current and past tax obligations, to my knowledge. I am engaged to a Canadian and plan to continue my life in Canada with her and one day, hopefully, raise our children here. Most importantly, I felt Canadian, was raised by Canadians, have only Canadian family, and know in my heart, Canada is my home.

My 1<sup>st</sup> contact (late May 2012):

I struggled to get ahold of the Calgary consulate... their webpage doesn't have a link for renunciations. I phoned a few times only to get automated prompts. The list of options in the prompts was not why I was phoning, so I finally hit the U.S. Visa prompt and got transferred. I explained why I was phoning and they put me in contact with the right people. They handled my situation very respectfully. They asked some basics: my name, birthdate, SSN, my other citizenship, how I obtained my Canadian citizenship, and my email address. Within a day, I received an email from them, acknowledging my call. They also sent me some state department info about renouncing and a questionnaire (looked like a word document). I filled it out and sent it back right away. Within 2 days, they emailed me to determine what day I would like to renounce. I said at their next available appointment. I received a date within the next business day for late July. I happily accepted. My advice: be completely flexible in scheduling the date. Take the next available appointment. Your renunciation is a priority and worth missing an afternoon of work.

My 1<sup>st</sup>, and only consular visit (late July 2012):

I arrived at my appointment early. I checked into the main desk at the building (across from the library). I thought it was a general security desk, but it a U.S. security desk. I was told to stand next to a wall and look into a surveillance camera. I did. They were running a bit late so I stood in front of the camera and against the wall for quite some time, maybe 20 minutes. I felt watched. They came to get me about 10 minutes later than my scheduled appointment. The security guard escorted me and another older gentleman upstairs. Security wasn't a big issue, except for my car key fob. They said I shouldn't have it on me. He said "You know I could forbid you from entering?". I said I knew that and I would hope he could understand I was travelling alone and had nowhere else to store the key. He eventually

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said I could leave it with him. After that, I was escorted into a big room with lots of chairs and a number of wickets for talking to staff. I waited in my chair for a while and tried to talk to the older gentleman, seeing as we were the only 2 people in a room with 60 empty chairs. He said he was renouncing as well but I didn't pursue it any further. They must have an official time they do renunciations (I think 2 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays). They don't want anyone else around to witness it I guess. I was called up first to provide documentation (US passport, which was very expired, Canadian passport, and to verify my questionnaire). After they told me to sit down. About 5 minutes later, I paid my \$450. The visa machine on their end was down so I was worried I wouldn't be able to pay for my desired renunciation that day. They finally got it working. My advice would be to take cash so there is no problems cashing out of the U.S. system. I sat down again after paying and they started to process the other guy and make him pay his fees. I then got a call to talk to a Vice-Consul. He didn't say much, just asked if I understood what I was doing and that if I ever wanted to live/work in the U.S., I would have to apply for a visa. I was told to travel to the U.S. on my Canadian passport going forward. I raised my hand to swear out and signed my CLN. He said it would take up to 6 months to process, but if I didn't have it by late January 2013, to contact the Calgary consulate again. Overall, everyone knew their roles and it was painless. I left the consulate with the security guard and was on my way. First thing I did when I got out... I drove to get a milkshake at a Calgary mainstay and celebrate my freedom on a wonderful summer day in Calgary.

Early December 2012:

I received my CLN... had to go to the post office to pick it up and sign for it. I realised that they put the date of my renunciation on the CLN so that was good. There was a raised seal on the CLN as well. In the official use only box in the top right corner, it was stamped for October 2012. That must have been the day it crossed someone's desk for the final sign-off. They included some of my supporting documents and my cancelled passport. The cancelled passport and the cover letter that accompanied everything was dated with an effective expatriation date of June 2012. A clerical error I am sure since that would imply I lost my citizenship a month before I renounced. I'll take the July date noted on my CLN as the official date for tax purposes.

Summary:

1<sup>st</sup> Contact: late May 2012

Received pre-appointment documents and scheduled appointment: within several days of 1<sup>st</sup> contact

1st and only Consular visit in Calgary: late July 2012

Received CLN: early December 2012

The hardest part of the process is making the decision to renounce. Once you make it, leaving the U.S. system (at least the non-tax part), is rather easy, but takes some patience. Now that I received my CLN, I feel better knowing that it is finally over, and there wasn't some sort of major clerical mishap where I am still a citizen and have to start the process all over again. I don't feel much different than I did when I was dual. I guess all that means is that as far as I am concerned, I haven't been a U.S. citizen in a very long time. I hope my story helps inform others! Best of luck to everyone renouncing.

--- NewB, 2012.12

*CLN received 2012.12*

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My husband and I are back home – a beautiful day for a walk to and from a US Consulate in Calgary, AB, Canada. Everything was straight-forward and went smoothly.

We got to the Consulate a little early and waited in front of the camera in the lobby across from the Security Desk. Someone soon came down and asked if we were us, said we could go get a tea at the restaurant on the main floor and someone would come down for us at 2:00 p.m. That happened – someone actually came into the little restaurant before we got back out to stand in front of the camera and escorted us to the 10th Floor of Rocky Mountain Plaza where the Calgary US Consulate is located.

Next was the usual ‘airport-type’ security procedure and a short wait in the waiting area to watch CNN, before being called to pay our fees and hand over our passports at one of the windows. We were given Forms 4081 and 4080 to read and understand. The only documentation we presented were our Canadian and US passports. Mine was my only US passport ever issued; my husband said that he had a previous US passport at home; he was asked to mail in.

A short wait and then we separately went into Booth B where we were greeted by the Vice-Consul and given back our Canadian passports and a second receipt for our \$450 (each) fee. We were asked to say why, in our own words, we were renouncing. No judgement was expressed by the Vice-Consul one way or the other. No scenarios of why we might want to reconsider retaining our US citizenship were given.

Form 4081 (Statement of understanding of consequences) and Form 4080 (Oath of renunciation) were all ready and officially sealed, previously prepared from the information we had sent by email to the Calgary US Consulate. We were asked to read these again to make sure we understood. The Statement of Understanding was signed by each of us. We were then each asked to read aloud our Oath of Renunciation (Form 4080), after which that form was signed. The Vice-Consul lastly signed our Oaths and we were informed of the US ‘alien’ consequences.

We were told that when the Calgary Consulate gets word from Washington, DC that our renunciations are approved, they will let us know. The Certificates of Loss of Nationality process should take a few months and our CLN’s will arrive by mail shortly thereafter.

It was all very business-like and an easy process in Calgary.

I’m also glad to report that no doors hit us on the way out of the Consulate.

I don’t feel any regret; I do feel a lot of relief to have completed this step.

(I didn’t make a final decision until this morning not to prepare an additional statement, but that is just what my lawyer had advised.)

My daughter renounced last month. Alas, no such right for my son.

-- Calgary411, 2012.11

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Early September I contacted the Calgary consulate an email address provided by a Brocker and requested a renunciation appointment. I got an email in response that asked me to “reflect on the gravity and consequences of renouncing your citizenship” and was asked to review some attachments.

I responded that I would indeed like to proceed and they gave me an appointment for early November. (they only do renunciations on Wednesday and Thursday from 2:15 – 2:45 pm, which explains why I had to wait two months for an appointment. I was asked to complete a questionnaire and send it back to them.

Fast forward two months and I go the consul. Arrived way to early and killed some time across the street at the library. Got to the consulate waiting room where there was probably 30 chairs and a total of 3 of us. One other guy was renouncing and I am assuming the other guy was but not certain as I was gone before he was called to the window.

First I was called to a window to pay \$450. The receipt said it was non-refundable so I thought it would be interesting if they tried to talk me out of it. Got called to another window where I had to give them documents. I gave my current U.S. passport and a notarized copy of my Consular Report of Birth Abroad (I could not find the original). They would not accept the notarized copy and they also said they needed my American passports from when I was a kid (the ones punched with holes and stamped “cancelled”). They said I would have to send these to them before my file could be sent to Washington. I also gave them my Canadian passport as proof of Canadian citizenship.

At this same window I reviewed a form summarizing the consequences of renunciation as well as a form that had the oath I would be signing in front of the consul officer.

I was then called to another window with the consul officer. She did not ask me why I was renouncing (but I had submitted a written statement) and did not try to talk me out of it. Just asked if I had reviewed the two forms from the other window and then I had to raise my right hand. She then asked if I was doing this on my own accord and understood the consequences and I said I did. Then I just had to sign the oath and another form twice each and that was pretty much it.

--- Shaggy Z, 2011.11

Well I relinquished in Calgary earlier this week and it seemed to go reasonably well.

After being escorted in the elevator from the lobby by a security guard you go through security screening exactly as you do in an airport. You are then taken to a rather large waiting room with a lot of chairs and a full size American flag at the front. There was only one other couple there at the same time I was. You are called to a window and asked for your documents which are copied. I was only asked for:

- birth certificate
- Canadian citizenship certificate
- Identification for which I provided my Canadian passport

These were taken away and copied and I was told to sit down and wait. After about 20 minutes I was called to another window in an open cubicle to speak to the consular officer. He was very formal and serious, did not introduce himself at all, but neither was he in any way unpleasant. He was behind a glass window and documents were slid back and forth through a slot at the bottom. At times I found it a little difficult to hear what he was saying through the glass and there was really no privacy from the waiting room.

He essentially only asked two questions:

- Why are you coming forward to relinquish now? (Passport issues)
- When you became a Canadian was your intent to relinquish your US citizenship?  
(YES!)

He had read over the Form 4079 (which was sent in by my lawyer ahead of time) and asked one question about a minor point. I had to read and sign the form regarding consequences of losing US citizenship. I regret not having the presence of mind to ask why I had to do this as I lost citizenship many years ago, but I was way too stressed to be arguing and I don't think it would have done any good anyway.

He told me the decision would be made in Washington and that it would be several months before (and if) I received the CLN. Considering all the different procedures at the different consulates I wonder about this. You would think if the powers that be in Washington were making the final decision, the paperwork required would be a lot more consistent.

--- Hijacked, 2012.10

My wife and I drove to Calgary from Medicine Hat in late January so that I could submit and affirm my relinquishment document. I was told that my documents would go to the State Department and it would take six months to a year for them to rule on my status and get back to me. My CLN came today via registered mail, and needless to say I'm feeling a huge sense of relief.

My parents and I moved from Michigan to Canada when I was a young child, and we all became Canadians in 1968, when I was 20. As I stated on the form, this was during the Vietnam War, and I wanted to travel on a Canadian rather than a U.S. passport. My intention was to sever my connection with the U.S. when I swore the oath of allegiance to Canada. I've had no dealings with States since; haven't had a Social Security number, haven't filed anything or applied for anything. So relinquishment should have been a "slam dunk" in my case, but of course there's always the possibility that the authorities might throw up some kind of a roadblock. It feels good to have the CLN in my hand; think I'll buy a fire-proof safe to put it in.

When the question of why I wanted to relinquish came up, I emphasized that my motive was to avoid problems at the border. I said that the last time I crossed I was told that since my Canadian passport indicated that I had a U.S. birthplace, I should actually be travelling with a U.S. passport. I said to the consular official that I was hoping to get some kind of document (at that point I didn't know enough to call it a Certificate of Loss of Nationality) to verify that I wasn't actually an American.

The whole experience has been extremely positive. The Calgary Consulate is easy to find – just across from the downtown library. My dealings with the folks there were pleasant and cordial. I did wonder why the official was putting so much emphasis on the possible downside of losing my U.S. citizenship (I thought of cutting him short and reminding him that I actually gave it up decades ago, but being a Canadian I was too polite to interrupt him). One heads-up if you're going to the consulate – make sure you leave all of your electronic stuff, cell phones etc., with someone, since you can't take things like this in with you.

I really appreciate the effort and expertise that's gone into the Isaac Brock site – you've helped me to keep calm and avoid panicking, to think my way through the process, and to achieve the best possible result. I wish you all the best, and hope you'll receive the good will and support that you deserve from Canadians and their (our) government during the difficult years ahead.

--- Dave, reported to Brock 2012.06. Note: CLN was received in 5 months.



Renounced at Calgary U.S. consulate in Winter 2012. One daughter and I renounced. We were the only ones in the waiting room, after the security guard came and escorted us up the elevator. We had to wait a few minutes and then dealt with a woman at one of the windows, who took our documentation, made some copies, and confiscated our U.S. passports. She was dismayed that my daughter did not have her Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen paper. A few days later, this was found and sent to the consulate, after e-mail correspondence. We had our separate discussions with the U.S. consul. This was in an area just off the seating area, and anyone in the waiting area would be able to hear your conversations. The consul presented a lot of arguments of why-not to renounce. Fairly weak ones, citing global warming, and what if you won a lottery and wanted to live south all the time. At some point, you will be asked, "what makes things different now, from all the past years that you did not renounce?" My daughter and I had both submitted written reasons why we were renouncing, so we reiterated some of them. When he realizes that you are not backing down, he then allows you to sign the papers and take the oath. At one point, I did express that I was angry that I was not being allowed to renounce for my other daughter with a developmental disability. And pointed out that her guardian and alternate guardian had just renounced. He came back with the reply that perhaps in the future she would have a different guardian who wanted to live in the U.S. I also told him that I resented this daughter's appointment being cancelled by the Calgary consulate. He did agree to re-book that appt., if I wanted to, but told be he would interview her privately, and if he thought she did not know what citizenship was, that he would not let her renounce. I cannot put her through this, so will not be making that appointment. The consulate told my other daughter and me that it would be 6-12 mos. before our Loss of Nationality papers would be mailed to us. In the meantime, we were still U.S. citizens and could even vote. We did get some very small receipt indicating that we had paid \$450 each for our renouncing fees.

---Cecilia, reported to Brock 2012.03 *CLN received 2012.07*

*... more Calgary reports next page*

Well.....I am Renounced!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I had my appt and I cannot begin to describe the feeling of relief after leaving that embassy! I encourage everyone who has not done so, to do it!!

The consular was very polite and professional, they did try to talk me out of it and explained every “possibility” that could happen in my life that I would want to keep my US Citizenship, but I stood my ground and proceeded. It went very smoothly... although, I was surprised as they took my 450.00 at my appt.

He did ask if I had children, I told him yes. I described my circumstances and why in fact they are not US Citizens as per the DOS websites and qualifications. He confirmed I was probably right but said the kids later in life COULD try and fill out an application and the DOS would make that determination, not a lawyer as I consulted. The keyword is COULD...

I am so happy to be 100% CANADIAN GAL now!!!

I felt like shouting as I walked out FREEDOM, like William Wallace from Braveheart, lol!!!!

--- Lovecheese, 2012.03

*... more Calgary reports next page*

THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

In Calgary the renunciation was done in a somewhat open area. The Consul was behind glass and I was in an open room – essentially a cubicle with walls to the ceiling. I do not know if others could have heard the Consul but they definitely would have heard me. The renunciations are processed at a different time than visas so there was only one other person there who had the appointment after mine.

--- Peg11, 2012.03 (consulate meeting, 2011.11) (CLN received 2012.06)

I renounced in Calgary in Fall 2011. We think it was just over an hour in total for the renunciation. I renounced and my husband came as an observer. You check in at the security in the lobby of the building and they call up to the Consulate. I was there 30 mins early but they said to come back close to the appointment time. I had to stand in a specific spot so the security guard from the Consulate could see me via camera. The guard came down and escorted us upstairs on the elevator. First was the security screening (similar to an airport) then waited for a clerk to call my name. Then gave her my letter and identification. I may have gone back to the clerk but don't recall. Then waited for the Consul to call me into a booth. The Consul talked a lot about reasons not to renounce - most I had considered already; some I had not. He never asked about my children but mentioned me having children - in my letter I did not give any details of my children just said "children". I think he talked for at least 20 minutes and then we had to sign the forms. There was a mistake on one so it had to be redone and then the second time I signed the wrong place so again had to be redone. Those errors added 5-10 minutes to my appointment.

--- Peg11, 2012.02 (consulate meeting, 2011.11) (CLN received 2012.06)

The renunciation appt in Calgary was very formal. There was no joking. I was given many scenarios why my life could be difficult after renunciation as a non-US citizen yet not one of them made me reconsider my decision to renounce. Essentially I had the impression that he thought I was making the wrong decision by renouncing.

--- Peg11, 2012.01 (consulate meeting, 2011.11) (CLN received 2012.06)

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It went fairly smoothly and I would estimate I was in and out within an hour. He went through many reasons to not renounce and didn't seem to understand my reasons for wanting to renounce....which was I wanted one citizenship and I had more devotion to Canada.

They took my 450.00 at the appt and said 6-12 months (sigh)...now just the waiting game! I am so relieved it is over and I can call myself 100% Canadian!

--- Wowthissucks, 2012.02

## Consulate Report for Canada, Halifax

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

I first contacted the Halifax Consulate by email to request information on relinquishing. After a reasonable period of time I was sent an email with forms DS 4079, DS 4080 and DS 4081 as well as information sheet regarding what documents were required. I completed 4079 and 4081 and sent them by mail back to the Consulate along with the required documents.

Eight days after my papers were received by the Consulate I received a call from a very pleasant person, asking if I could come in the next morning to meet the Consul. As I live 4 ½ hours away from the Consulate and was not expecting an appointment so soon, I had to delay the appointment for several weeks until I could spare a day for the long round trip.

On the day of my appointment I arrived about a half hour early at the Consulate. After going through security I sat down in the very quiet waiting room. No one else was there, nor did anyone else come in while I was at the Consulate. About 15 minutes before the appointment I was called over to one of the windows and asked for the originals of the documents I had sent by mail.

About 7 minutes before the appointed time I was called over to another, slightly more private window to meet the Consul. He passed 2 copies of 4079 under the glass for me to sign, and then 2 copies of 4081. Before signing 4081 he asked if I wanted to read that form over. I replied that I was familiar with its contents and then signed.

After that he quickly went through the process: they would forward the application and documents to Washington for final approval, Washington would send the CLN back to the Consulate and then the Consulate would mail the CLN to me.

He stated that “relinquishments are easy”.

Except for being asked if I wanted to read 4081 before signing, the only other question I was asked was if I had any questions. The Consul did not ask any questions about last address in the U.S., why I was requesting a CLN, nothing said about any tax forms, no comments about the worse for wear photo static copy of my birth certificate, etc.

As I left the Consulate I glanced at my watch. I was finished 2 minutes before the time of my appointment.

Just a few tips.

One should specify in any communication that they are seeking a Certificate of Loss of Nationality by virtue of having obtained citizenship of (Country) on (date) with the intent of relinquishing U.S. citizenship (or something to that effect). This will hopefully clear up any misunderstanding about whether you are relinquishing or renouncing.

And for persons going to Halifax, a friend who works in a building next to the Consulate suggested that least expensive place to park was at the Halifax Casino. I did that, but avoided going into the Casino itself as I felt lucky enough to have had so little difficulty at the Consulate.

Many thanks to all who have shared their experiences and answered questions about relinquishing. Because of all the information I had, I was able to go through the process with very little anxiety or concern.

--- Hazy, 2012.11

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

2012.12.06

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

When I renounced in February in Halifax, I was sent the forms before my appointment. I had to send them back with all needed documents so that it could be done in one appointment. I was told that the fee was to be paid upfront. There was no conversation about why I was renouncing. I also had added a letter as to why I wanted to renounce. I had to provide a postage paid envelope so that they could send my CLN when it came in if I didn't it being folded L.O.L. I to felt so happy that I was CANADIAN only when I left there. I had a smile all the way home. And it still brings a smile and comfort every time I think about it. My only regret is that I didn't know about this years ago as I would of done it long ago.

--- Babbs, 2012.03 (consulate visit, 2012.02) CLN received 2012.07

My appointment was for early March but was moved up to last week. Reason I was told is that there was a back log and they were adding extra appointments to clear it up. There was a lot of back and forth with them for documents that I had to submit several times. I was reluctant to ask why but I did. Was my information being lost? They apologized for the confusion. When I called them about a few questions I had about filling out the form DS 4079 because I found a few questions difficult to answer because I was brought to Canada as a child, their answer was to fill out to the best of my ability. I was told that they didn't have time to go over the questions because they were busy because they were getting a lot of calls about renouncing. The appointment went well. No second appointment needed. The fee has to be paid upfront. I can have my CLN sent to me if I don't mind having it folded. I have to provide a postage paid envelope. Of course he couldn't tell me how long before I get the CLN.

--- Babbs 2012.02 (consulate visit, 2012.02) CLN received 2012.07

*... more Halifax reports next page*

Not sure what I expected but it was fairly painless with a couple of unexpected twists.

First of all the consulate is a tiny suite of offices in an office tower. You get buzzed in by the receptionist/telephone operator/security guard. That gets you into a very small space where you have to put all metal objects (including your belt) into an equally small tray and then step through the metal detector. Then you step into a room the size of a large bedroom with about twenty plastic chairs screwed to the floor and you sit. This waiting room is also the interview room – there are wickets around one side (nobody at them at all – staff or clients.)

My appointment was for 9:30 and I arrived at 9:00 and they took me at 9:05. I spoke to a clerk who asked the purpose of my appointment and I said I wanted to inform them that I had expatriated in the 1970s. She was having none of that. She said she didn't mean to imply that I was lying but they had a lot of people recently claiming this, so I had to have all the forms filled out as though I were relinquishing today. I thought this might be the case so I had already filled out these forms. She then asked if the other person coming in this morning was my wife. I said it was and she told me to go get her and they'd process both of us at the same time. Her appointment was for 11:00 so this was good news for us.

I got my wife and returned. The same clerk asked us for documentation. She seemed to think I should have a form signed at my citizenship ceremony renouncing US citizenship. Not sure if I did that or not but her suggestion to apply for copies under Access of Information and make another appointment was not what I wanted and I looked quite distressed and told her I wasn't coming back. Back to filling out forms as though relinquishing today.

She asked us for birth certificates, marriage certificate, driver's licenses, citizenship certificates, landed immigrant cards, passports and any old passports we had to show how often we'd traveled into the U.S.!! I explained that we had only used passports in the past couple of years to enter the U.S. and that no border official in the U.S. had ever stamped our passports. I further explained that I didn't get old copies of passports when I renewed. She was astounded at that news.

She also strongly recommended that we write up a page of "Why we relinquished" as mentioned at the bottom of 4081.

Reading this it makes her sound a lot worse than she was. Actually she was very polite and co-operative. I think she was just a bit stressed by the numbers relinquishing recently in Halifax. *... continued*

*...continued*

In any case she took all the paperwork and said that normally there is a second appointment necessary but she would type everything up and we could get it all done today. Then she told us to go away for an hour and she would get it done up. While we waited (eating breakfast) we wrote up the page she had urged as per 4081.

Returning an hour later we were told to wait for a consular official. This time it was a young man who started with: "This should be painless and very quick." He went through the forms and we signed in front of him. He told us it was good to relinquish as opposed to renouncing because it was free and we agreed that was good. We asked about copies and as others have said were told it is policy not to give copies. We asked about wait time to get a CLN and he said that it used to be about a year but there had been so many recently that they were processing them more quickly(!) He said between 2 months and a year. I'm hoping for the 2 months but expecting closer to the year.

Left the office about 11:30 ... Overall, as I said, painless and cooperative.

--- Johnnb 2012.01            CLN received 2012.07

## Consulate Report for Canada, Montréal

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

### Renounced in Montreal with one visit!

Although I live closer to Ottawa, I took the advice of others who have posted here to use Montreal or Toronto instead. Also, I had much more scheduling flexibility in selecting Montreal vs either Ottawa or Toronto. There were lots of openings, almost every week for both November and December. I made my appointment using the on-line system as they will not answer the phone. Selected "notarial and other services" and no one knew why I was coming until I arrived. The whole process took less than one week and they have given me an estimated date for receiving the CLN of approximately three months.

The Consular offices in Montreal are actually very nice. They are located on the 19th floor of the SNC-Lavalin Building in downtown Montreal. The waiting area is large with big windows and views of Montreal to the west, north and east. There are vending machines for drinks and chips, washrooms, toys and books for children. There was even a computer available to surf the net while you waited.

My appointment was for 2:00. I arrived at 1:30 but found I could not enter the building until 2:00. Left for the nearest Tim Horton's which was just a block away. When I returned at 2:00 there were about 10 people ahead of me and by the time I got through security, up to the 19th floor and waited to be assigned a number it was about 2:45.

Everyone I dealt with was pleasant, efficient, and helpful. They seemed to appreciate that I had arrived with all the paperwork done (DS-4079, 4080) and with all the required documents. I was asked a number of times if I understood what I was doing and if I would like more time to think about it. I was also asked several times to express why I was taking this action now. All contacts were at a glass window. Even though they were not very busy, I wasn't finished until about 4:30. At one point I had to leave the building and go purchase a prepaid envelope at a Canada Post outlet less than a block away.

The oath was given by the vice consul. There were no flags or pictures of Presidents current and past. The parting words of the vice consul were – you are always welcome to come back and see us anytime. Over all a pleasant experience considering the seriousness of why I was there.

In conclusion, I would say I am glad I made the decision to take this step, happy the process was quick and without incident, but sad it was ever necessary.

--- Myst, 2012.11



**Note: All Montréal expatriations now done in ONE visit**

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It was in Montréal, very informal, no ceremony. The vice-consul and I discussed reasons in a 5 minute session during first appointment. It seems they have had and expect a serious increase in # of renunciations.

--- Rivka88, 2012.03                      CLN received 2012.07

It was like being told to go different tellers in a bank, each doing a small part of your transaction.

First window: tell why you are there

Second window: documents prepared for your appointment. Current Cdn & US passport, old Cdn Passport and citizenship card, also my list of reasons

Third window: actual appointment approx 5 minutes, why? Replied I did not feel like an American, dishonest to carry passport of country to which I had no allegiance.

Montreal will provide a photocopy of your oath of renunciation without the consular seal. A one month waiting period for a second appointment. CLN waiting time approx 6 months.

--- Rivka88, 2012.02                      CLN received 2012.07

## Consulate Report for Canada, Ottawa

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

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We have heard that Ottawa might start to do expatriation in one visit. However, our most recent information is that the length of time between the two visits at Ottawa was 11 months, about twice that of any other consulate for which we have information, the average gap at the remaining two-visit consulates being about a month or two).

Brockers were told by Ottawa staff both in Spring and Fall 2011 that Ottawa was currently doing only 1 final visit appointment per week, but they plan to start seeing 2 CLN applicants per week. Interviews (face time) of 2-3 hours are considerably lengthier by far than at any other consulate for which we have information, where face time is usually 10-20 minutes. Product knowledge may be shaky here as Brockers were erroneously told by two different staffers that, despite having consistent post-relinquishment conduct, it was now too late to claim a relinquishment as the relinquishing act occurred too long ago.

In addition to our Directory entries, we have also received word from a few Ottawans who contacted Brock after visiting the consulate but did not provide reports for publication. From them, as well as other sources including consulate staff and the ACS chief, we conclude that although there are minor variations between consulates, expatriation procedure at Ottawa appears to be quite different, more complicated and definitely lengthier than at the other consulates for which we have information.

--- Pacifica

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I live in Ottawa. Three people I know in Ottawa went to Toronto, after some real horror stories we've heard about some serious attitude problems some consular staff in the embassy have here, which so far haven't shown up in any of the other consulates. Unless you're really strapped for money, go to Toronto. DON'T go to the embassy here in town. Maybe they've cleaned up their act, maybe not, but my info is that even consular officers in other consulates in Canada have been disturbed by some of the crap that has gone on, as have a few lawyers both here in town and even in the States. Life is too short to waste it interacting with pompous, nasty bullies. There are a few of those types lurking in that hideous bunker on Sussex Drive.

You have every right to go to Toronto or Montreal for that matter; there is no requirement for you to go to the consulate or embassy nearest you. I've seen written confirmation of this from the DOS office in Washington that approves CLNs; people I know personally have also been told this by consular officers in the consulates and even (reluctantly) by one of the bozos in the embassy over the telephone.

I don't know anyone who has tried to get a CLN at the embassy after the bad-experience stories began circulating. That doesn't mean no one has, but any time I hear of someone thinking of going to the embassy, I always steer them to Toronto or Montreal.

--- Schubert1975, 2012.09

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

I went to the Embassy in Ottawa in September to make an appointment to renounce my citizenship. My appointment will be in August, 2013. Does anyone have any information as to why this is so long?

I first contacted the US Embassy in July and was told to use their website to schedule a first appointment. I wasn't told to bring anything with me. At my appointment I talked to someone behind the counter for about 10-20 minutes as she dealt with other issues at the same time. She was very busy. She needed my US passport and proof of Canadian Citizenship, my SSN and personal information about where I had lived, how much time I had spent in the US and what I had done there, personal information about my family, and why I was renouncing. Some of the dates and numbers I didn't know so she told me to bring my information to my next appointment.

I then spoke with her supervisor who wanted to make sure that I understood that renunciation was permanent. He told me that it looked like mine was a routine renunciation and told me I didn't need to bring any other documents to the next appointment.

--- Renunciant F, 2012.09

## Consulate Report for Canada, Québec (ville de)

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

We have no reports as yet from Québec City.

The Québec City consulate has a *very* small cachement area. The US has a consulate in Montréal, and most of the Québec Province population is in that area of the province.

If you have renounced or formalised your previous relinquishment at the Québec consulate, please let us know about it!

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As a point of interest, this table shows the number of US citizens registered with the US consulates in Canada. This includes both uni-US citizens as well as dual citizens, but only those people who chose to register. And of course it does not include former US citizens who relinquished their citizenship and are now needing to get a CLN to formalise that relinquishment by today's laws. And it's a bit old. But it should give a rough idea of the general distribution of US-born persons in Canada.

|         |             |
|---------|-------------|
| 3,400   | Québec City |
| 24,300  | Ottawa      |
| 40,000  | Halifax     |
| 65,000  | Montréal    |
| 105,000 | Calgary     |
| 200,000 | Vancouver   |
| 250,000 | Toronto     |

*Data from overseasdigest.com, 1999. If anyone reading this has more recent data, please let me know.*

## Consulate Report for Canada, Toronto

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

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Having followed the IBS website for several months now, I am ready to report my relinquishment from start to finish. Upon reviewing the Consulate Directory Report at IBS, I learned how to go about approaching the matter.

On May 8/12, I checked the Consulate website for Toronto to see if I could get an appointment.

Luckily one was available for May 10/12 and I booked it right away. I gathered the following documents and made 2 copies:

1. Birth Certificate (Original one from the hospital in the US where I was born, NOT one from any government office or agency);
2. Certificate of Canadian Citizenship dated in 1976;
3. Wallet sized Canadian Citizenship card;
4. Canadian Passport.

In addition, I completed 2 copies of the forms DOS 4079 & 4081. I did NOT complete or attach a supplemental affidavit of any kind, believing that it is best to record the bare facts and just answer any questions they may ask.

On May 10/12 I went to the consulate. The process was very much like that described by Pacifica on Page 28 of the Consulate Directory Report. Everyone at the consulate was courteous and professional and easy to deal with. The Consul was very pleasant and simply asked a few questions about any US Passports (never held one) and voting (never did that in the US), all of which I had indicated on the form. At the beginning of the interview I indicated that I did not consider myself a US Citizen since 1976 and was just there to get that fact documented by the US Government (also noted on my Form 4079). I explained that I knew that at that time it was the US policy to revoke citizenship if one swore allegiance to another country or sovereign and I have acted accordingly.

After reviewing my documents, the Consul got me to sign the forms and indicated they would send the package to Washington for approval of the CLN. She said it would be a number of months before I would hear back from them. They would not give me copies or any documentation acknowledging I had done this business.

Since I had no acknowledgement, I waited 2 months and then sent an email asking if they have heard from Washington regarding my relinquishment case advised to them on May 10th. I had no expectation they would have anything, but my strategy was to get some kind of acknowledgement. They replied that my case was sent to Washington for approval, that there was an unusual number of relinquishments and renunciations lately and they are experiencing delays. They would however notify me when they heard back on my case. With that email, I now had acknowledgement that was somewhat better than nothing should I wish to cross the border or have some issue at a financial institution.

*continued ...*

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

2012.12.06

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

... *continued*

Today, November 15th, I received a call from the consulate informing me my CLN was ready and I agreed to pick it up, which I did. The following are some pertinent dates regarding the documentation:

1. Date forms 4079 & 4081 signed by myself & the Consul – May 10/12;
2. Date form 4083 (CLN form) signed by the Consul in Toronto – June 13/12. It appears my documents were still in Toronto for over 1 month after my visit before being sent to Washington;
3. Date CLN stamped for approval at the State Department in Washington – October 26/12;
4. Date CLN received – November 15/12 (6 months – 5 days);
5. Effective date of CLN – Aug/76.

Having read about the experiences of other as reported on IBS, I was quite confident in doing all this myself without the need to involve a lawyer, particularly since I was using the Toronto consulate where it was reported they handled these matters with a minimum of fuss.

I have to thank IBS for all the information and comments. It was most helpful to me in dealing with this matter and bringing it to a satisfactory conclusion. This information can be included in U.S. Relinquishments and Renunciations data recap on IBS.

--- Only a Canadian

Hi everybody. I just relinquished U.S. citizenship yesterday afternoon in Toronto.. It was easy. Took less than one hour. Consulate officers were friendly. CLN eta = 3 to 6 months. Thank you so much for this website. There was a young lad at the booth next to mine who was renouncing at the same time. I wondered if he was a brockster. Bye Bye Miss American Pie! There is a hotel within a very short walking distance of the Consulate. The Metropolitan at 110 Chestnut St. Lots of places to eat nearby. Don't eat at the hotel. Breakfast for just myself cost \$20. I thought breakfast would be the cheapest meal of the day! There are also some big parking lots near the vicinity of the Consulate. Good luck everyone.

--- Banany, 2012.11

After a year of upset, I went to the Toronto consulate in September with 4079 and 4081 completed but not signed to report that I had relinquished my U.S. citizenship in 1973. I was there about two hours, most of that time waiting. The actual processing of the forms took less than ten minutes. The person who signed the forms said that I would get my CLN in six to eight months and with it a copy of the documents I had signed.

--- Mrs. TomOn, 2012.09

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

Independence Day (or maybe that will be when the CLN arrives; anyway, I'm writing on July 4). Toronto Consulate Visit Report

I went to the Toronto consulate recently to apply for a Certificate of Loss of Nationality to document my relinquishment of US citizenship upon having become a Canadian citizen many years ago.

I had filled out forms DS-4079 and DS-4081 in advance. I also took my last US passport (long expired, from just before I came to Canada), copies of my landed-immigrant papers, and a copy of my Canadian citizenship certificate from the 1970s.

My current Canadian passport served as photo ID for entry to the consulate. (The consular official made a copy of it.) To verify that I had an appointment, I needed the receipt page that I had printed after booking the appointment on the consulate's web site.

In addition to the forms already mentioned, the consular official asked me to fill out a short form giving my current address and phone number in Canada, my last US address, and my US Social Security Number. An acquaintance in similar circumstances had told me they would want the last two of those; otherwise I wouldn't have remembered them. I assume they want that information to check whether I have remained on a voter registration roll at my last US address and what my filing status is with the IRS, both of which are material to the question of whether I have been exercising US citizenship. (I haven't been.) And I believe they want the SSN in order to report my relinquishment to the IRS, as, I understand, the Department of State is now required to do.

The consular official asked me the reason why I was coming forward now (because of news that I would need a CLN to allow me to visit the US on my Canadian passport), I was also asked to confirm all of the particulars on the DS-4079 and DS-4081 forms. After that, we both signed our lines on the forms, and I was sent on my way. The official said it would take many months for the CLN to arrive. I was not given copies of any of the signed documents but was told that I would get copies when the CLN was delivered. There was no indication that I would need another appointment at the consulate.

As others have reported, the official was businesslike. But the decor was drab and there was a gloom of security in the building. It was, I imagine, like visiting a prison. The security people at the entrance provided a way to check in cell phones and retrieve them upon exit, but all other banned items, including water bottles, had to be left outside with a friend or "under the tree". (There were, indeed, quite a few water bottles at the base of a big tree just outside the entrance.)

I found the consular visit tolerable (it took about an hour, including a lot of waiting), but the whole process of learning what was required, collecting and copying documents, filling the DS forms, and waiting weeks for the appointment has been very time-consuming and

annoying for someone who has not been a US citizen for so long. I am in no mood to do any more time-consuming paperwork for the US government if they should ask me to. I am very happy to be purely Canadian and have been for over 30 years.

Thanks to those of you at the Isaac Brock Society who have provided much useful information and advice.

--- AnonAnon, 2012.07

My second appointment for renunciation at the Toronto Consulate. The staff was very courteous and professional.█

I filled out most of the forms before arriving there, but a few of the questions are poorly worded so the agent had to explain those. After forking over the \$450 USD (ouch!), I sat in the waiting area to be called and had to answer the usual questions: Are you freely renouncing? Are you under any duress? Did you read all the documentation?

I thought they would ask me to raise my right hand and say the oath out loud or something but I just had to read the statement myself and sign it. Afterwards the woman gave me my receipt and returned my Canadian passport. After I asked her about travel to the US, she said that in the event a customs/immigration official questions why I'm travelling on a Canadian passport, I simply state that I have filed an application to renounce, and show him/her the receipt of payment if need be.

The CLN would supposedly arrive in 6-8 months, though another agent said it would likely arrive sooner than that. Unlikely, if we go by other people's experience. The consulate would contact me to find out if I want the documents (CLN, copies of all documents filled out and signed, and cancelled passport) mailed to me or if I want to pick them up.

The second appointment took about 45 minutes. All in all it was a fairly painless procedure (except for the fee) and I feel, not so much happy about the entire ordeal, but I have more peace of mind now at least. Of course I won't be completely free until I fill out that 8854. And boy that looks like a doozy.

--- Zuccherro, 2012.05

***... more Toronto reports next page***



During the absolutely straightforward and expected interview, the consular officer told me the following ...:

1. I was asked how I knew I was relinquishing my U.S. citizenship when I became Canadian – when I said through media reports at the time, without mentioning Vietnam, the officer replied there would have been lots of discussion in the press in Canada during the Vietnam era.

2. When I was asked why it was only now that I was contacting the U.S. about my relinquishment, I, without wanting to mention the word “tax”, said it was in response to recent media reports about the 1990s Supreme Court decision to declare people like myself potential dual citizens retroactively. The officer sighed and said something to the effect that the retroactivity was causing a lot of anxiety and work for a lot of people.

--- Relinquisher B, 2012.05

I went to the US Consulate (Toronto) today to relinquish my U.S. citizenship. I became a Canadian citizen in 1978, never held a U.S. passport, have no American ties except for family and some friends I keep in contact.

I was informed at the end of my interview and after signing DS 4079 and one other form (DS 4083?) that my CLN would be backdated to the day I took out my Canadian citizenship in 1978, and that I should expect to receive the certificate in 2-3 months.

While I am here, I want to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to all of the contributors to the IBS. This site has been an incredible wealth of information to me and provided me with all of the information I needed to confidently arrange for my formal relinquishment of U.S. citizenship.

I will write again to confirm the receipt of my CLN.

--- Bushwacker, 2012.05

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

I relinquished in Toronto this week! It was an excellent experience. Everyone I met at the consulate was pleasant and just seemed like nice people. I was at the consulate for about one hour in total. As it was a relinquishment, it required only one visit.

You enter the building in the back on Simcoe Street. There are two lines. For relinquishment/renunciation, you want American Citizen Services (it tends to be the shorter of the two). Once through security, guards will direct you to ACS.

At ACS, there are a row of windows, like bank tellers. I checked in with the clerk at a window. She took my forms, affidavit and id docs and gave me a number like at a bakery. This step of the procedure took just a few minutes.

The waiting room is comfortable, not many people there, and had a large tv, showing a news channel. There is a board to show which number is being served. A bell rings when the number changes. It will show your number and which "bank teller window" to go to for your meeting.

I waited about 30 minutes. I studied Japanese while waiting and actually learned a few new words (so I guess I wasn't all that nervous ☺ There were a few others waiting, I heard one of them say he was there on his first visit to renounce.

The meeting with the consul seemed to be about 10 minutes or so. She had read my forms/affidavit and looked at my id before they called my number. The consul was very pleasant and I enjoyed meeting with her. She asked me some questions and told me about the procedure. It was a very comfortable conversation. She obviously understood that some people move from one country to another and make their life there.

She said that my CLN would show the date of my actual act of relinquishment many years ago. She said I could be getting the CLN in as soon as 2 to 3 months. I was surprised. She was aware that Canadian CLNs were taking longer than other countries, perhaps because there's such a large number of US-born people here, and said that Washington was working on speeding things up.

I was on cloud 9 leaving the consulate! I felt like I was bouncing up Simcoe Street! It was such a relief! I felt like my life was back. Life was normal again ... I was me ... And I had always been me! I would be getting a CLN that reflected the \*reality\* of my life! And my interaction with the consul left me with a positive feeling about the United States, which was nice too!

I think I was walking around Toronto with a big loony grin on my face the rest of the day! I've gotten to know Toronto very well over the decades, and after my successful consulate meeting, Canada felt like my undisputed home again!!!

Thanks, Brockers ... no joke, you were with me in spirit. These have been very upsetting and disorienting months in my life because of this confusing citizenship matter. Thanks for sharing information and moral support!!!

--- Pacifica, 2012.05 *CLN received 2012.11*

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

2012.12.06

The visit was a single meeting of about an hour in total. The appointment was made on-line with the Notarial Services page of the consulate's website. Everyone was very polite and helpful, and there were no problems or surprises. There was no mention of any fee. The CLN will be mailed to the home address. Having all the necessary documents and two completed copies of both 4079 and 4081 probably contributed to the smoothness of the experience; having "all your ducks in a row" before going in, seems to be a very good idea.

--- Relinquisher A, 2012.04 *CLN received 2012.08*

I relinquished my citizenship. My expatriating act was to take the Canadian oath of citizenship. I have also not voted in the US, not renewed my US passport, nor filed any tax returns (until recently for the 8854) since acquiring Canadian citizenship. I explained on my DS-4079 that I had only just recently filed US tax returns on the advice of the IRS because, while it was my intent to lose my US citizenship, it was not my intent to disobey any of their rules.

--- Cornwall, 2012.03 *CLN received 2012.09*

I relinquished my US citizenship in Toronto in November 2011. I was told it would take 3-4 months for my CLN to arrive but I am still waiting for it. It took a couple of weeks between the time I contacted them and my one and only appointment.

I would suggest downloading all the necessary forms because I still have not received the blank copies of them that they mailed to me twice.

In my pre-appointment phone discussions, there was some concern that I only had a wallet-sized Certificate of Canadian Citizenship card rather than a letter-sized one. I checked with a representative of Service Canada, who said there were two types of Certificates: the old laminated wallet-sized card and the new letter-sized paper one. I thought about getting a new letter-sized certificate, just to make things easier, until I read the application for it and discovered that it is illegal to have more than one copy of a Certificate of Canadian Citizenship in your possession at any one time. I pointed this out at another pre-appointment phone discussion and subsequently only had to photocopy the front and back sides of my wallet-sized card.

I have found both the Toronto consulate staff and the IRS staff to be quite friendly and helpful throughout this whole process.

--- Cornwall, 2012.03 *CLN received 2012.09*

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

Toronto no longer makes a distinction between renunciations and other consular matters – just make the appointment and show up. They used to (until last fall) have separate days for renunciants and everybody else. I wonder if the change is related to moving away from making people take the oath orally, which helps them run the third floor without conflict and weirdness.

---Broken Man on a Halifax Pier, 2012.03      *CLN received 2012.09*

It's strange how inconsistent procedures are between different consulates. Toronto was by-the-book but very straightforward – I was in and out for a first interview in 45 minutes. (Too by-the-book to do the whole thing in one interview, unfortunately.)

--- Broken Man on a Halifax Pier, 2012.02      *CLN received 2012.09*

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Interesting. I think it depends upon which vice consul you get in Toronto. Having read from perhaps you and others, I expected just to sign the oath and go. Instead, he asked me to raise my right hand and repeat the oath. There is semi-privacy in that the open waiting room is off to the side; the only people in that section are USCs waiting for USC services. The visa applications take place on the first floor, so no “foreigners” actually hear this. But other USCs can clearly hear; I heard one fellow starting the relinquish process and did ask him if he contributed to the forum; he said he did not.

There is virtually no wait time in Toronto. When I had my first appointment in November, I immediately booked for the next week, though I cancelled that appointment in order to be sure. The Toronto calendar is easily viewed on line-they post it per month and so far, it depends at what point in the month one wants. But as Broken man says, two weeks is probably max.

--- Noble Dreamer, 2012.03,      *CLN received 2012.09.*

All of the people at the consulate here were kind, professional and showed compassion as well.

--- Noble Dreamer, 2012.02 ,      *CLN received 2012.09*

*More comments from Noble Dreamer below.*

Well, its done, it's over and a big step toward being free!

The first thing is that Toronto now has a system for keeping keys, cell phones and so on. Not big items, no purses and so on. You give it to the security guard – there is a storage cubby against the wall. You get a number, present it when you leave and get your belongings back. I do want to stress though, only small items. The non-citizen service area was packed and it felt so odd to feel that energy of so many people wanting to get visas, to get in to the US and I was so wanting to get *out*.

*... continued*

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

2012.12.06

... *continued*

Mrs. A. went over all the paperwork, got it ready to be reviewed with vice-consul. I have always found her to be totally delightful and we laughed and joked a bit. Then waited quite a while (it felt like forever) and overheard another fellow who was in to relinquish. Had come to Canada in 1975, citizenship in 1979 and didn't have a clue he was still USC until questioned at the border about US birthplace. As he passed to start filling in his paperwork, I asked him if he participated in the expat sites. He said not, though he sounded completely familiar with all the right things to know and say. It seemed there was another lady also there to renounce/relinquish but I couldn't hear enough to be absolutely sure.

The interview was quite simple. I would prefer not to mention the fellow by name but it was not Eric. He also did my first meeting. He was very friendly, not formal in the least and there was no sense of needing to feel concerned about any topics being off-limits. A very comfortable conversation. When we were nearly done with signing everything, I asked him if there were more than usual numbers for renouncing. He said no, that it was about the same as always. I mentioned that I had heard the normal number in Toronto was 5 per year and he looked a bit perplexed. Then he asked me why would I think there would be more? I said, "You don't *know*?" I then spoke about how important it was to understand it was not about taxes. He thought for a moment and said that he observed that most who came in mentioned that they just didn't feel an allegiance to the US anymore, not in a negative way, just that they felt more Canadian. He seemed to understand that this would be a natural consequence of living abroad for a long time and didn't have a problem with it. He indicated that retaining USC came with "responsibilities." He thought some came in due to some of the press coverage when they otherwise might not have, but again, that it was more about "being Canadian" than anything else. I am sure he truly believes that. It made me wonder, if even the consular folks are completely aware of all the issues involved for us.

Then I was quite surprised that he said I would have to raise my right hand and repeat all of the wording on the actual oath page. I was really not prepared for that. But I did make a point of emphasizing the words "absolutely and entirely renounce my United States nationality....I make this renunciation intentionally, voluntarily, and of my own free will...." And then it was over. I asked for a copy of the oath and he said they were no longer doing that – that a couple of months ago, Washington had decided that until the renunciation was approved, and a CLN given, no copies of the oath were to go out, since the entire process hadn't been completed. But that the actual date of the renunciation was today. I mentioned that I had concerns about trying to travel without that and he told me to just explain the situation to the CBP officer; he seemed to think it would be no problem. I told him it really didn't matter since I had an EDL anyways. He seemed surprised by that and said "you do?" And I said "of course." Judging from some of his reactions, I imagine some of the people that come in to renounce are not as aware as the people on this forum. *continued ...*

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

2012.12.06

*... continued*

As I left the building and walked down Simcoe towards Queen, I noticed the buildings, all the different types of people walking around and felt “this is my city; this is where I belong.” I realized that while I may not have been very aware of it, I really had changed in all my time here and that, in a positive way, I *wasn't* American; that there was no reason to feel bad about having to renounce. I can't quite put it into words but it was unexpected and liberating! I definitely recommend it!

--- Noble Dreamer, 2012.02 *CLN received 2012.08*

When I relinquished in Toronto in December, they asked if I wanted to give a reason and I said, “no”. They were totally ok with that response. They were very nice. I had no reason to feel nervous.

--- iamquincy, 2012.02 *CLN received 2012.12*

**More Toronto reports next page**

I visited the US Consulate in Toronto to inform them that I had committed an act which had caused me to relinquish my US citizenship. They made me fill out seven pages of paperwork (which I had done in advance—DS-4079 and DS 4081), swear with my right hand raised that I had read and understood the consequences of my actions, and then I signed the paperwork in front of a consular officer, who then put the seal of the Consulate General of the United States on each signature page.

### **How I was treated**

The main person that I dealt with Mrs. A. was very polite; she too is Canadian, and so there was zero recrimination for the act I had committed—but she did her job, and made sure that I knew what I was doing. The consular officer, a certain Ms. J.H.F., also was polite. At first Mrs. A. suggested that I must come in for a second visit, but when I insisted that I had already committed an expatriating act, she agreed that I was only at the consulate to inform them of that fait accompli and that there would be no need to return. The expatriating act took place on 28<sup>th</sup> of February, and she recognized that I was no longer an American citizen according to USC 1481 .

### **\$450 renunciation fee**

I can't yet say, as I suggested in an earlier post, that the \$450 fee would not apply to someone who had committed a prior relinquishing act. It is clear however that “renunciation” and “relinquishment” are two completely different acts in the understanding of the United States Department of the State and their US Consulates

General around the world. Mrs. A. explained that my paperwork would be sent to Washington for examination. This could take a great deal of time. Meanwhile, she provided me with sealed copies of all the paperwork. She said that when the Certificate of Loss of Nationality (CLN) would be approved, she would contact me and I could pick it up after it arrives but I would have to pay any fee that might apply. She didn't think that the \$450 fee would apply but she wasn't sure. So I am not in the clear. However, the Toronto US Consulate General says that fee is applicable at the time of taking the oath of renunciation. Singapore too. The Hamilton Consulate General says the fee is

applicable at the time of picking up the CLN, and renuciationguide.com says that fee technically applies to the processing of the necessary paperwork. In any case, if I've made the relinquishing act, owning a Certificate of Loss of Citizenship may not be necessary, provided the State Department recognizes my loss of citizenship. I'd be like Scarecrow, brains but no diploma.

*continued ...*

*... continued*

### **My written statement**

I provided a written statement which I signed in front of the consular officer and which she stamped and sealed. The text of that statement is as follows:

I have lived in Canada most of my adult life. I have married a Canadian. After so many years in Canada it became clear that I have a great attachment to Canada, to my Canadian friends, to my Canadian wife and her family, and to my church community in Canada. I felt that it was therefore necessary to become a Canadian citizen so that I may become a full member of this great and wonderful country and its people. Therefore, I applied for Canadian citizenship in 2010, and I also had, even at that time, the intention of relinquishing my US citizenship. For in taking my pledge to the Queen of Canada, Elizabeth II, on February 28, 2011, I realized that it would be absurd for me to be of divided loyalty. My duty to the Queen and to the Dominion of Canada precludes me from maintaining citizenship in the United States of America, since when one country calls me to serve, dual citizenship could potentially create a conflict of interest. To avoid all such conflicts, I have decided with my full volition and all my heart, to relinquish my United States citizenship once and for all, realizing that it is an irrevocable act.

--- Petros, 2011.04    *CLN received 2012.04*



## Consulate Report for Canada, Vancouver

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

**UPDATE: 2012.11.** We learned in early November that Vancouver is currently modifying its expatriation procedure, with a view to alleviating the frustrations referred to in some reports. Bear that in mind whilst reading the reports, and check back here, we'll keep you posted. Brock has been told that expatriations will take place in one visit.

**UPDATE TO THE UPDATE: 2012.11. WE'RE GETTING A MIXED MESSAGE ABOUT VANCOUVER.** In the last week of November, Vancouver's on-line booking shows no appointments available (they had a few for May 2013 last week, but those have by now been taken) and Vancouver does not know when appointments will be available. Two Brockers received word this week from Vancouver that no new appointments are available, one of whom shared their e-mail with us. They were informed that [emphasis mine], "Slots for this category of appointment are in high demand and are fully booked. You will need to monitor the availability and then make your appointment when a slot becomes available ... We are unable to project when this will occur and therefore are unable to give you a probable time. ... Renunciation of your U.S. citizenship is not executed at this first appointment."

**We will keep you posted as we learn more.**

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My frustrations with the US Consulate, Vancouver, began within days of completing a first interview on June 6 of this year. After that interview I supplied the consulate with further information as requested, while also mentioning again that I would be traveling to California in July and—having been previously told that a Canadian passport would be sufficient, if by then my second interview had transpired—I required an appointment for my second interview asap. This journey had been explained both via email and at the first interview. The submitted records showed that my US passport *had* expired—hence my concern with a border problem, not to mention a number of non-refundable paid reservations for the California trip.

The short of this is that no answer ensued, and after further emails—ultimately, entreaties—the long was no different. California came and went, with nary a mention of a US passport at the border. Back in Canada, still nothing came until finally at the end of August I received an email thanking me for submitting documentation (11 weeks previously) and stating that I was now ready to proceed with my “final interview,” and that I should respond by making “...an appointment for your loss of nationality.” There was of course no way to make that appointment without first hearing again from the consulate. Hence, I responded almost immediately with an appointment request (the official line comes across as forever incredulous, hence tediously repeatable) and then, yet again, more silence.

The August email seemed to imply that requesting a second appointment was tantamount to getting one quickly because that is the way the first one had gone. But when several weeks had passed, I wrote again. Nothing. And then again. Silence. And yet still again—no response. I could think of no way to excuse it. It began to be alarming. Were they even getting my emails? It was inexplicable. Then outrageous and stupid—like droning clandestinely for peace and the liberty of making unseen war. I was caught in conflation of insignificance with the gigantism of the vast American sphere. Finally, with November half gone—and thanks to the investigations of Isaac Brockers, Calgary 411 and pacifica777—I wrote an

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email to Minister Counselor of Consular Affairs, Sylvia Johnson, US Embassy, Ottawa. Ms. Johnson responded the following morning, writing that she had “asked” the Vancouver consulate...etc., etc., and within minutes of receiving her email I had a phone call (on the emergency line) from “Allison” at the Vancouver consulate, asking me to call back (on the emergency line) in order to book an appointment for my second interview.

After months of not being sure I existed, I nearly passed out, proving that I did. Allison was polite and apologetic, a model of all that a recusant could desire. At first she said they were booked until the end of January, then she quickly countered with the divulgence of an opening in three days. Beginning to balloon with temerity from her kindness, I countered with what about next week, Tuesday or perhaps Wednesday—and morning? She said wait a minute, went away, and came back with sure, how about Wednesday; would you like 0830 or 1100? In a couple of minutes I had moved from insignificance to having a toe in the shoe of gigantism. It was a real rush and a tiny brush with Power. I shall add that there must be no cynicism here: I sincerely thank Sylvia Johnson for the precision and kindness of her intervention and wish all comrades in distress their own eventual and equally delectable fare.

--- Cir, 2012.11

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From Schubert1975:

This is direct report from a renunciation that took place at the Vancouver consulate during October 2012. To protect the identity of the person reporting, I have received this report at least two removes from the renunciant in question. I have no idea who the renunciant is, nor do I want to know. But I have 100% confidence in the reliability of my source for this information. In conversation a consulate staff person told the renunciant that Vancouver consulate had heard back from Washington on 58 cases all at one time. This event appeared to have been a fairly recent occurrence, almost certainly falling within 2012.

On a different topic, the renunciant was also told that the intent of the Vancouver consulate procedures is to ensure that every single case is solid and proceeds to completion without a hitch. It was further said that Vancouver consulate has encountered not one instance of a rejected termination of US citizenship. Other locations (none named) are said to have produced failures.

The following are my personal observations, for what they're worth.

Regarding the first paragraph: we now have official confirmation that part of the delays we are experiencing are due to batching of cases, at least in Vancouver. The figure of 58 cases, likely all in 2012, is very interesting. Isaac Brock Society has at this writing received individual anonymous reports of 13 cases from Vancouver, all dating from November 2011 and all but two in 2012. So at least in Vancouver, the true number of cases is more than four times what we're picking up at Brock. I think it would be foolish speculation to try to extrapolate from this to the rest of Canada, never mind the world (especially bearing in mind we probably get a bigger percentage of reports from Canada since we're based in Canada). However this puts the current Canada total we're showing (53 cases reported to us, 31 renunciations and 22 relinquishments) in some context. Our table is picking up the tip of an iceberg, though I have no idea how much of the berg is underwater.

On the second paragraph: personally I think Vancouver is going over the top in their ensuring none of their cases get rejected by Washington (Tiger's situation in particular leaps to mind). However

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

those folks who have gone to Vancouver should take some comfort in the news that to date Vancouver hasn't had a single one of "their" cases rejected in Washington. So if they've accepted your application, you should have confidence it will be approved in DC. (I don't see how a renunciation could possibly be rejected in DC once any consulate has accepted it, though I can imagine scenarios in which some relinquishments might get tripped up. We do know of one where the age of the applicant at the time of the claimed expatriation was a problem, for example. In that particular case, if I recall correctly the consulate caught the problem before sending the case to Washington and called the applicant a day or two after the appointment and told the person the case wasn't going forward. If Calgary, Toronto or Halifax have accepted your forms and haven't called you back within a couple of days, I think you should be fine.)"

--- Schubert1975, 2012.10

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As many of you know, I had my first Consulate appointment in Vancouver, to report my 'relinquishment' from 40 years ago. Unfortunately, things did not proceed as I had hoped they would.

It has been mentioned by others that Vancouver requires two appointments. The clerk who first saw me gave as the reason that two appointments were necessary 'in order that you have the time to reflect'. I pointed out to her that my 'reflection' had been done 40 years ago. She smiled but did not respond.

I had brought to the meeting, in addition to the DS-4079 and DS-4081, a statement as to why I chose to relinquish 40 years ago, my Canadian passport, my Canadian citizenship document, a Marriage certificate (to show the name change) and 2 birth certificates. Two of my documents were not accepted by the clerk.

Regarding the birth certificates, one was a very old document, with some fading. She said you had to be able to read the "Filing Date" and parents' names clearly. My father's middle name was blurred on this particular certificate. She also said the filing date was blurred. All family and friends, who have looked at the document are able to read the "Filing Date". I also had with me a Certified copy (from 1993), which clearly showed my father's name and the filing date. She refused to accept this as she claimed it was a photocopy. It had at the end of the page "Certified copy of birth certificate.... certified by County Clerk, ..name.... etc".

Regarding the declined Marriage Certificate, she said it was necessary to have the Civil certificate. Mine was the Church certificate, although, it clearly stated the marriage was performed according to the laws of the State of ..... I have no idea if other consulates only accept 'Civil' certificates of Marriage and would be interested to find that out.

The whole experience was quite dreadful and emotional as I had believed that I had 'all my ducks in a row'. I do not believe there is anyone who has a more legitimate 'relinquishment'. I have been a citizen of Canada for 40+ years; my citizenship oath includes an oath of renunciation (that was attached to the DS-4079); absolutely nothing has been done in those 40 years to negate my intent, ie, no U.S. passport, no tax returns, no voting in elections, no sponsoring of anyone to immigrate to the U.S. (the Consul asked me that question). *continued*

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

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Both the clerk and the Consul were respectful. They did both mention that it was a relinquishment, not a renunciation and put that on the forms

The clerk gave me a website to access to obtain the necessary 'correct' certificates from "Vital Records for the State of .....". In typical fashion, and as has been reported on other threads, the phone numbers are unreachable from outside the U.S. My U.S. domiciled brother has now obtained a phone number, where I can hopefully reach a live person. I will pursue this because quite honestly, I need to put an end to the worry and anguish. I was told by the clerk that I could scan and fax the documents when received and ask to book the 2nd appt. at that time. She also said all documents had to be brought to the next meeting. As, I believe, Arrow said – a bit redundant.

I wish to thank everyone on both IBS and Maplesandbox, who has expressed concern and sent messages to me. Your messages give me the courage to follow this through.

--- Tiger, 2012.09

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OK I am done.

I had my second appointment in Vancouver this week and I am no longer an American citizen (subject to CLN approval of course) The process has been well described by others far better than I could do it so I wont go into details, but I do have some specific comments that I would like to make.

First the time line, my first appointment was in June and I was told I could have the second appointment in a few days, it actually took 14 weeks.

I was sent 3 identical emails in the time leading up to the appointment and they all stated that there was no storage for personal items that could not be brought through the checkpoint. In fact there was what looked like an apartment style letter boxes where you could leave small items.

The metal detector is no longer at the bottom of the stairs but is now in the hallway on the second floor. I was asked to give security my glasses for inspection, apparently they are looking for cameras.

When I went to wicket 11 to check in I noticed that they had an appointment sheet for the day that was categorized in 3 or 4 colors. My appointment which was the first of the day and the last appointment of the day were both magenta colored. Most of the rest of the appointments were blue with only a few other colors. I am assuming that magenta means second renunciation appointment and therefore Vancouver is doing 2 renunciations a day.

When I got to the wicket I realized that I had forgotten by birth certificate at home. Even though there was already had a copy in front of them they insisted that they needed another copy of the same document because the one they had was not certified.

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2 hours later when I got back I think I pissed off the 30 or so people in the visa lineup and the 4 in the ACA lineup because I was directed to the very front of the line.

Back to the wicket my BC was accepted and I was told to wait for the consul.

When I saw the consul he explained to me again the consequences of renouncing and was I sure I wanted to do it. I told him that I have not considered myself to be an American for almost 30 years and it was now time to make it legal.

I apologize at this point because I don't remember the order of what happened.

We looked over all the paperwork verified that it was correct, and I signed it all.

I knew that the oath needed to be administered in front of a flag and I was disappointed when the flag turned out to be a cheesy 6" high desktop US/Canada flag set. I was expecting something a little more dramatic. I performed the oath.

When it was time to pay I inquired about getting a second copy of the CLN but I was told that they didn't know how to do that and I would have to make a request to the state department after I got it, this is different than what is described for some of the other consulates.

I was told that it would take somewhere between 2 months to a year to get the CLN but the State Department was getting faster and it shouldn't take that long. I was told that I did not need to carry the original when traveling because the border officials would have access to that information once they scan my passport, just bring the payment receipt if I need to travel before I get the CLN.

One thing that surprised me about the process is after all the anxiety and stress over the last year, when I was finally done I felt nothing. No joy, no relief, no sadness, no emotion at all. It just felt like a wasted day spent in a government office filling out paperwork.

Ultimately I guess that exactly what it was. A wasted day spent in a government office filling out paperwork.

--- Just a Canadian,2012.09

*More Vancouver reports next page*

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When you approach the Consulate outside, there will be someone there to greet you. Let them know you're ACS (American Citizen Services) and they'll move you to the right line (the short line!). You'll get in quickly. Show your US passport, if you have one, and show your written confirmation of your appointment.

Please do not bring anything more than you absolutely have to (in terms of *personal* stuff) because the security is really tight and it will take that much longer to go through security if you have extra stuff.

In addition to the required documents (which I carried in a plastic bag), I brought sunglasses, eyeglasses, wallet, and my house keys and a small paperback book, all contained in a small travel bag. They went through every pocket in the bag and opened eye-glass cases and examined sunglasses and eyeglasses, took out my keys and looked at them (they were not electronic/key fob type keys – do not bring them if that's what you have – no electronics of any type).

They do this outside before you enter the building and then again once you're upstairs. You empty your pockets (they even ask you to take kleenex out of your pockets) and put your belongings in the tray: watch, belt, bracelets, jacket, eyeglasses, etc. Then you walk through the metal detector, collect your stuff, and then you're ready to go up in the elevator.

The security people are very thorough, but very polite and respectful.

Use the washroom in that area if you have to because there isn't anything upstairs. It's a unisex bathroom, two stalls, so don't be surprised if you see someone in there of the opposite gender.

The security person takes only a few people up at a time. You've let them know you're "ACS" so when you get off the elevator the security person tells that to the security person on the floor and then they direct you to go down the hall to your right, make a right turn again (it's a long, narrow L-shaped hallway) and then you check in at a window far down. The windows are numbered and they'll tell you which number you're to go to.

Wear comfortable shoes. They were very prompt for my appts and called me in on time, but there is quite a bit of standing while you work through everything. Also, I found a book helpful to read while they photocopied documents because that takes a bit of time (done on first appt). I took a light-hearted novel with a bit of comedy to help lighten up my frame of mind.

If you're not sure how to respond to questions on the documents, they will help you. I found some of the questions on the one form quite awkward to answer (because of my situation) and the staff clarified things and helped me figure out how to answer it.

It will help expedite things if you have all your documents. Bring everything related to citizenship in both countries; anything to document name changes (marriage; divorce); know the dates you lived in the States; know your last address in the States; bring your Social Security number if you have one; bring a Nexus card if you have one; bring original documents.

Everyone I encountered was kind and helpful and really lovely to deal with. They were efficient and prompt. I received excellent service and was really pleased with how they handled everything.

--- SadCdn, 2012.09

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

2012.112.06

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

REPORT ON FIRST VISIT TO VANCOUVER CONSULATE FOR RENUNCIATION

(second visit report follows)

After 6 months of consideration, research, and planning, as of today I am currently officially in the process of renouncing my US citizenship (through the US Consulate in Vancouver, Canada.)

I gained a lot from reading this and other websites as I prepared for this process, so I thought I would return the favor by posting my experience here, and responding to any questions anyone might have!

**BACKGROUND**

I'm a 30 year old male, dual US and Canadian (both acquired though birth) at the start of a career in Canada. For many of the reasons widely discussed on this website, I am reluctantly renouncing my US citizenship.

**MY EXPERIENCE SO FAR**

I began by studying the step by step guide here: <http://renunciaguide.com/Renunciation-Process-Step-By-Step.html> I very carefully prepared everything so that things would go as smoothly as possible at my first consulate visit. I assembled and made sure all my documents were valid and not expired: US and Canadian passports, US and Canadian birth certificates (short and long form), US Report of Birth Abroad (I was born in Canada), driver's licence, US Social Insurance Card.

I also brought with me all my current contact information and my most recent address in the USA. Additionally I filled out IN ADVANCE the "Statement of Understanding Concerning the Consequences and Ramifications of Relinquishment or Renunciation of US Citizenship" form, and the "Request for Determination of Possible Loss of United States Citizenship" form (DS-4079).

I used the online system to make an appointment at the consulate, in the category of "American Citizen Services (ACS)", "Other". It was easy to get an appointment.

I arrived 30 minutes early for the appointment, and that was a good call since security and lineups took up the full 30 minutes. Once I was in, I proceeded to the first window I would need to go to (this was about 11AM). I was in the consulate from 11AM until about 2PM – either talking to one of three people that dealt with me, or waiting in the waiting room. So several times I had to go to a window, then go sit down again, then back to a window, etc.

All three of the people I dealt with were in every instance and in all respects TOTALLY NICE AND FRIENDLY! They did not bat an eye at the reason I was there, and simply did their jobs professionally and courteously. Also, there was no confusion – they knew exactly what needed to be done. They even apologized for the long time I had to be in the consulate – saying it was due to short staffing that day.

Throughout the 3 hours, this is what occurred:

1. They collected all the above-mentioned documents from me, photocopied them, reviewed them, etc. They were amazed that I had all the proper documents on the first visit, and said how much easier it would be because of that (missing documents may result in extra visits or correspondence by mail).

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

2. They asked me some run of the mill questions (contact information etc) and typed into their computers.
3. They explained the ramifications of what I was doing, and made sure I was cognizant and aware of what I was doing.
4. I signed the Statement of Understanding and DS-4079, in their presence.
5. I was asked "why are you renouncing", and they typed up my answer and added it to the file.(so be prepared to be asked this question). I stated that I did not want to owe allegiance to two countries, and that I chose Canada as the country that I wanted to maintain allegiance to.
6. Right then we booked the second appointment. They offered me an appointment as soon as in 10 days! However since I am travelling this summer, I took an available appointment time in September.
7. They returned all my original documents to me, and provided me with an information sheet giving more details on the process and the next steps.

## WHAT IS NEXT

So, according to the information from the consulate, this is what will happen next:

1. At my appointment in September, I will meet with the Consul. At that meeting I think I have to swear or utter some kind of oath, and/or sign an official document in the presence of the Consul.
2. Pay the \$450 fee, and they take your US passport at that point.
3. They mail everything to the State Department, who can take up to 1 year to review the file and approve or reject it. At the window they told me that they have never seen one rejected.
4. At some point, up to one year from the second visit, I will receive a package in the mail at home which will contain the Certificate of Loss of US Citizenship. The certificate will be BACK DATED to the date that I took the oath. That will be the end of the process.
5. The point when you receive the certificate in the mail is when you really know for sure that you are no longer a citizen. However, you actually LOST your citizenship on the date you took the oath. This has implications for taxes, since the year you lost your citizenship (not the year you receive your certificate) is the last year you have to file taxes. So in my case, if I swear the oath in 2012, 2012 will be the last year for which I need to file US taxes.

--- John Smith, 2012.07      *John Smith's second visit next page*



... *John Smith continued from previous page.*

## REPORT ON SECOND VISIT TO VANCOUVER CONSULATE FOR RENUNCIATION

### FIRST VISIT

I previously detailed my first visit (see above).

As I wrote previously, getting my second appointment was very easy. I could have had it one week after my first, but due to travel plans this summer, the first appointment I could accept was in September. But note that at the Vancouver consulate apparently there is not always a major waiting period between the two visits.

### SECOND VISIT

I learned a few lessons from my first visit: I took transit on my second visit so that I could stay as long as needed without worrying about my parking meter running out or paying an exorbitant parking garage fee. I took some quarters and loonies in case I needed to make a phone call inside the consulate (they will NOT let you use their phone, I tried – but there is a payphone). I brought a book, since there is nothing to do or read if you are left waiting a long time. As usual I left my cell phone, car clicker, and all the other prohibited stuff at home (check their list very carefully).

My appointment was for 8:30AM so I showed up outside around 7:55AM. Security has been described by others and it was the same for me. There have been mixed reports about whether there are lockers for your cell phone or not – but I could not find a clear answer so I left my cell phone at home again. I did not see any lockers and no one offered. Security was very fast that day so I was actually upstairs and already talking to someone at a wicket by 8:05AM.

I was directed to the ACS intake wicket. I was the first person to arrive that day, and they lifted the curtain when I rung the bell, as the first client of the day. A very friendly woman looked up my appointment, checked my ID, and gave me a number ticket.

I waited just a few minutes before being called back up to a different wicket. A different woman was there, with my renunciation file. This was the same person who worked with me on my first consulate visit. She is VERY friendly, helpful, polite, efficient, etc – she's doing her job well. She did most of the work that day – copied things, prepared forms, had me review the forms she typed up to check for errors, and once again, she asked me a series of questions to make sure I knew what I was doing, understood the consequences, etc.

(For the second visit I brought my US passport, Canadian passport, US and Canadian birth certificates (short and long form), certificate of US birth abroad, \$450 US cash, and the Xpresspost Mailing Envelope following their instructions.)

... *continued*

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

... *continued*

All of the US documents were at that point taken by the consulate, and they will all be voided and some may be sent back to me, others not. She said the passport would be voided and returned but she was not sure about the other items. My Canadian passport was returned immediately.

Next I was asked to sit down again.

A few minutes later I was called back to a different wicket, where the Consul was now sitting. The consul was friendly and professional as well.

(Clearly the second woman was in charge of preparing everything, and the consul's job was only to show up at the wicket, review her work, talk to me, sign the papers, and administer my oath. He came for that, then left, and the woman returned to wrap things up.)

The consul greeted me at the wicket. He immediately provided me with a piece of paper and sent me to the Cashier's Wicket, where I paid the \$450 fee in US cash (they take credit and cash – I brought both just in case).

I walked back to the Consul's wicket with a receipt for \$450 from the cashier which I gave him. He then checked my ID very carefully, then proceeded to ask me once again the series of questions making sure I understood what I was doing (he actually apologized for asking me, saying he knew I had heard it 4 times already!). Next he had me read the oath of renunciation with my right hand raised. Next he had me sign the Certificate of Renunciation and two other documents, all in two copies (6 signatures). He countersigned all of these as well. The oath and everything else was all done right at the wicket, with bullet proof glass between us.

Next the consul immediately sent me to a different wicket (without waiting in between), where the second woman was waiting for me. She then reviewed the entire renunciation packet including the papers the consul was just working with. She is making sure everything is there and ready for the US State Department. Since she was doing a final review of the whole package, presumably she put it in a shipment for Washington soon after that, but I did not see her do it.

After that she made sure I had my Canadian ID back, my receipt for the \$450 (which is "your only proof of renunciation until you have your CLN"), and I was told that was it. I left the building.

I was also told the same information as before, which is that the CLN could take up to 12 months to arrive at my house. The entire package has to be reviewed and approved in Washington. The woman told me that she had never heard of one not being approved so it is safe to assume that I will be receiving it. When I receive it, the date of my renunciation on the CLN will be the date that I took the oath (at my second consulate visit. In fact as detailed above, they actually created the CLN right there on my second visit, and I have already signed it and handled it! They will be sending me the exact same piece of paper, with a seal added, after it is approved in Washington).

All told, I can once again say that every single person I dealt with at the US consulate in Vancouver is friendly, helpful, polite, professional etc – even when dealing with a renunciation. At no point did anyone even bat an eye at the fact that I was renouncing. Clearly it was all very humdrum for them – they are doing them every day surely.

--- John Smith, 2012.09

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

2012.112.06

**First visit (second visit report follows)**

Got to the Vancouver consulate at 9 am for a 9:30 appointment, and had to navigate a huge line (outside) of people lining up for visa applications. Security folks were pretty helpful, and after standing outside (my wife was freezing) for about 40 minutes, we got in through security and up to the 20th floor. Security folks were all pleasant and efficient.

After about 5 minutes, we (yes, they let me in too) fronted up to a consular clerk (?) who was wearing a sweater that said CANADA across the back in big letters, and he proceeded to look at all the documents for a relinquishment.

1. He wasn't interested in the statutory declaration, never looked at it.
2. He looked at the two forms and said they were very old forms (I downloaded them from the DOS website) and proceeded to transfer the info onto his own form. And he was super helpful.

Then he looked at passports and citizenship documents and asked if my wife had her Canadian citizenship card. She didn't bring it. He said THAT is considered the "official" document, and the piece of paper isn't. He intimated that this is a Canadian statement, not US. And it puzzled him too, She dug up the card (at home) and will bring it the next time. So be advised — bring both of those citizenship pieces if you have them.

Once he was finished with his paperwork — and copied all the docs (wanted landed immigrant paper too), he then handed it all over to the Consul, who then spent about 20 minutes questioning my wife about her intent — making sure this was completely voluntary, and he made sure she understood the consequences of her actions. I was asked to step away during this process — he said quite freely that part of his job is to make sure she isn't being coerced.

Both of these guys asked when was the last tax return filed, but didn't go any further down that road. And she was asked several times if she has(d) a US passport (she never did). At the end of the consular interview, he said the application is now filed, and in two months we'll get a call for a second interview — again, he said, to make sure that this action is being taken voluntarily and with full consideration of the "irrevocable" nature of the act. He indicated that after the second interview, it would take about a year to get the CLN.

Bottom line — as long as she has taken no action at all that would indicate a desire to retain US citizenship, the application should be approved. That won't be a problem. That was it — took about 90 minutes once we were through the door, and the experience was pretty benign. Those guys all know what's going on here, and he as much as said they've had a flood of these applications — that's why it takes two months for the 2nd interview and a year to get the CLN.

--- Arrow, 2012.03

**Second visit (first visit previous page)**

Free at last, free at last ... well, not quite, but the formal oath has now been sworn, the documents are winging their way to Washington for DOS approval, and we wait.

Got to the Vancouver consulate at 11:25 am for a 12 noon appointment — and there was not a soul at the door. Security was quick and we were upstairs by 11:30. We got a number and unfortunately waited nearly an hour before being called up to the counter.

Saw the same guy at the counter as the first appointment 5 months ago. He took all the pertinent documents again to make copies (They made copies of all these documents at the first meeting, too ... go figure). He did his bureaucratic stamp-the-universe routine, and sent us back to wait.

After 10 minutes my wife is called back up for a session with the vice consul (I was asked to leave, but I stayed within earshot). He went over the same stuff as in the first interview, got her to swear an oath, and it was done. He indicated that the CLN could take anywhere from a few months to a year — but indicated that they'd thrown some more resources at this in Washington and it might not take that long.

Back to the clerk, who went over the logistics, and then said my wife would get, along with her CLN, a copy of IRS Form 8854 so she could get whole with her taxes. He indicated that as far as the IRS is concerned, the date she notified the state department of her expatriating act is the one that counts for them — not the 1974 date on the CLN. We made no response to this. He said he could give her the form now, but that the IRS has a habit of changing forms all the time and he didn't want her to walk out with a form that was already out of date.

That was it. From arrival to departure took a little over 1.5 hours.

--- Arrow, 2012.08

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## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

**First Appointment (second appointment report follows):** We just completed our first appointments at the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver in July 2012 to begin renunciation. Things went smoothly because we got there early to go through the rigid security system, brought nothing along but essential papers, had every original document ready and had filled out a major form ahead of time.

Bring every possible document you have and they must be originals. Bring U.S. passport. Bring Canadian passport plus the original citizenship document with the date stamped on it plus the laminated CN citizenship card. Bring your U.S. Social Security card. Bring your current drivers license. Know your last U.S. residential address including zip code. You must figure out the dates you lived outside of the U.S. and the dates you lived in the U.S. Bring your birth certificate.

Though the Consulate said when I asked ahead of time that it was not appropriate to fill out the form DS-4079 "Request for Determination of Possible Loss of U.S. Citizenship" before the first appointment, in fact it was completely useful to fill it out and bring it and the clerk accepted it. I found how to download that form at this helpful website <http://www.expatinfodesk.com/expat-guide/relinquishing-citizenship/renunciating-your-us-passport/five-steps-to-renunciating-your-us-passport/> It is a PDF and I couldn't figure out how to put in a link directly to it. No reason not to do the form ahead of time and facilitate the whole process. Photocopy it, though, because they keep it along with copies of all your relevant documents.

We have a second appointment, when we complete the process and hand in our passports forever and pay the \$450 US cash. It was scheduled only 12 days after the first.

--- Renunciant E, 2012.08

**Second appointment:** My husband and I had our second appointments at the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver. at 8 a.m. July 30, 2012 and August 1, 2012 (the first appointments were on July 19).

We were told to arrive by 7:30 to go through security. It was not explained that the ACS (American Citizen Services) waiting area does not open until 8 a.m. and so it appeared we were in the wrong place when we ended up the only ones without call numbers in a waiting area full of visa people. However, that is the system and a security person gestured when it is time to take the elevator to the ACS counters on the 20th floor. After that, the process only took 30 minutes.

The Consulate staff's job is to make certain all the original documents are provided and copied, forms are in order and accurate, and that you realize the seriousness of renunciation and that it is irrevocable. I was allowed to accompany my husband, who is hard of hearing, to his appointment with no questions asked. Nobody asked us why we wanted to renounce. The clerks were Canadian citizens employed by the U.S. Consulate; they were pleasant and helpful. It is important to realize the Consulate is not the place to give speeches about the IRS (an irate American man did that at great length and the clerk

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## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

answered only, "I'm sorry to hear that."). The Consulate has nothing to do with the IRS.

We expected to sign the DS-4079 "Request for Determination of Possible Loss of U.S. Citizenship" five page form we had filled out for the first interview but we never saw that form again and never signed it. The clerk used information we provided on that form to complete a short official Certificate of Renunciation that we were asked to check over for accuracy. Typed into the Certificate were the dates we lived IN the United States. This was a surprise because we had been asked on the DS-4079 to give the dates and countries of our residence OUTSIDE the United States since birth. So, it is a good plan to have the dates you lived in the U.S. clear in your mind.

After checking all the documents and pages, we were sent to speak to the Consul or Vice-Consul who checked everything and sent us to the cashier a few feet away to pay our \$450 U.S. cash each before having us read the words we were swearing to out loud. We signed two copies of the Certificate of Renunciation and another page. Our U.S. passports were taken away.

The Certificate will be mailed to us in perhaps a year in the special Canada Post envelope they told us to purchase which requires a recipient signature. Write your name firmly on the address label and the clerk will peel that off to give you to track it. Cancelled U.S. passports will be returned in the same envelopes. While waiting for the Certificate to arrive in the mail, all we have to prove our status is a very flimsy little receipt for the \$450 paid. I photocopied those receipts because we should carry them when crossing the border with our Canadian passports in case there are any questions.

--- Renunciant E, 2012.08

*... more Vancouver reports next page*

**First Visit (second visit report follows):** Eight days after making the appointment I had my first renunciation meeting at the Vancouver Consulate. The worse part of the whole experience was waiting to get inside (although I met some nice people in line). I arrived 20 minutes early for an early morning appointment. There were two lineups outside – one for Visas and one for American Citizen Services. The visa lineup was much longer than the ACS lineup which I was in.

After standing outside for 55 minutes I was summoned inside the door and put all my belongings in trays and then I (and my belongings) went through the scan. Once I was deemed to be free of any forbidden items I was escorted by a security guard on an elevator up to the 20th floor consulate office.

I started by going to a window to get my ticket, then was sent back to sit down to wait to be called to another window. There a man spoke to me briefly and took my U.S. and Canadian passports and some other documents I had brought to photocopy and start a file for me. He then sent me back to sit and wait to be called to talk to a consular officer who

spoke with me for about 20 minutes. He described what the loss of my citizenship would mean to me and asked me why I was renouncing. He told me that I would be called back in about two months for my second meeting when I will see a consular official and sign documents such as the CLN. They will let me know what documents I am to bring to that meeting. That is also when I will pay the \$450 fee. Then I can expect to wait about a year to get the official CLN from Washington. He also said that the CLN sent from Washington will show the date that I sign the document at my second Vancouver visit as the date of loss of citizenship.

I asked about travel across the border during the period between signing/giving up my U.S. passport and receiving the official CLN. He said that I should travel with my Canadian passport and if a border guard questions me about that I would simply respond that I have renounced my citizenship but do not yet have the CLN document to be issued from Washington. There was at least one other person there to renounce/rescind while I was there.

All the consulate staff that I dealt with during the process were cordial and very professional. I never felt any recrimination from anyone for what I was doing. They simply did their jobs and did them well. So, don't have an anxiety attack over this if you're planning to renounce/rescind in Vancouver. Just make an appointment and start the process. (You make an appointment by emailing the "notary and other services appointment" address you find on the Vancouver Consulate website.)

The whole process from the time I actually got inside until I was escorted out took about 50 minutes. I noticed when I got out that the lineup was much longer so I would recommend getting an appointment as early in the day as you can to beat the longer lineups.

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

Nitty-gritty Notes: Some people who went in were sent back outside to get rid of pills, etc. Someone in line told me that a place across the street would hold your cell phone for you for \$5 but I can't confirm that. I noticed a washroom on the main floor right by the elevator that takes you up to the consulate. There's a Starbucks and another really good coffee place right by the consulate in case anyone needs a drink after their experience.

--- Ladybug, 2012.04

## Second visit report

### Chronology:

March, 2012 – First appointment at Consulate [see earlier report, “Vancouver First Visit,” immediately following this]

May, 2012 – I sent an email to the Consulate stating that I had been advised my second appointment would be in about two months and I would appreciate hearing from them regarding this appointment. No response.

June, 2012 – Received letter (via Canada Post) regarding my second appointment stating that after I had gathered all the material required (noted in the letter) I should email the Consulate regarding making second appointment. I sent an email that same day and three weeks later received a phone call to set up an appointment for about a month later in July.

July, 2012 – Six days prior to second appointment date I received an email from the ACS Dept. of the Consulate saying “Thank you for making an appointment with us for passport services.” It then provided instructions about what to bring and do for obtaining a passport or renewing a passport. I was bewildered by this and was afraid that they had scheduled me by mistake for passport renewal rather than my renunciation appointment. So I called the Consulate number expecting to get a recorded message, but instead a man answered the phone immediately – it was a pleasant shock that a real person was on the line. He looked at his calendar and confirmed that I was scheduled for my renunciation appointment, then chuckled and said not to worry as this email is sent routinely to people who have booked appointments for renouncing. Just a heads up for anyone who gets this email and panics, thinking they're planning to renew your passport rather than take it from you.

July, 2012 – The long-awaited Second Appointment: Four months after my first appointment I finally had my big day. Outside the Vancouver Consulate there is now a space with about 50 little lock boxes for people to put small items in. However, if they are full you are out of luck so it's probably still a good idea to avoid taking cell phones, etc., with you.

The procedure began with a very friendly staffer showing me all the documents she had prepared on the computer (based on the forms and personal statement I had taken in to my first meeting) and she had me proofread all of them to make sure they were accurate. She then went through the routine of making sure that I really wanted to do

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)



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this thing and said that if I had any doubts I could take my time and come back another time. I assured her that I was certain of my decision to renounce and we proceeded. After compiling the forms I had proofread and the documents I had been told to bring this time (US passport, Canadian passport, Canadian citizenship card, Canadian certificate which shows date of naturalization, and prepaid Xpress Post envelope) she sent me to the ACS waiting room to wait to be called for my interview with the Vice consul. I waited there for about 20 minutes. The vice consul discussed the ramifications of what I was doing and then sent me to another window to make my \$450 payment. I received a receipt with the words “Renunciation of USC” printed on it. It also says “All transactions final – No refunds.”

I then returned to the Vice Consul’s window and she had me sign in duplicate all the forms (Form 4079 – Request for Determination of Possible Loss of United States Citizenship, Form 4080 – Oath/Affirmation of Renunciation of Nationality of United States, and Form 4081 – Statement of Understanding concerning the Consequences and Ramifications of Relinquishment of Renunciation of U.S. citizenship). Then I read aloud the Oath of Renunciation before the VC. She stated that this won’t be official until the State Department “approves” my application but when it is approved the CLN will be dated on the date of my signing the forms (July, 2012).

The VC then sent me to the first woman I had dealt with, who went through all the papers to make sure all documents were properly signed and sealed. She told me that I should take care to keep my payment receipt which is my only proof of renunciation at this time and also the delivery confirmation slip for the Xpress Post envelope (which she took off the address label and gave me) which they will send to me eventually with enclosures consisting of my official CLN, invalidated US passport and copies of all the documents I signed.

She said it could take up to at least a year to receive my CLN. Apparently there is a long list of people relinquishing/renouncing at the Vancouver Consulate. When I asked about the varying lengths of time it takes to get this done at different consulates she indicated that when they go to Washington for approval they are processed in the order they are received. I mentioned that people at some consulates seem to be receiving theirs much sooner than at other consulates. I felt she understood the frustration of those waiting but it is out of the hands of the consulate once it leaves there.

Wow! It’s done – that part anyway. I feel so good about having this finished and would like to extend my congratulations to all others who have reported making it this far in this process. Also, my thanks to all of you Brockers who have encouraged, enlightened and empathized with me and others on this journey. While I have a great sense of relief about having completed my journey thus far, I know that another chapter awaits and I won’t feel this saga is truly and completely over until I have said adieu to the IRS.

Of course, I’ll let you know as soon as my CLN arrives in that Xpress Post envelope.

--- Ladybug, 2012.07

In July 2012 I finally had my 2nd appt. at the Vancouver US Consulate. The time between my 1st and 2nd appt. was 5 months! When I arrived for my 2nd appt. they had me scheduled for a new passport appt. LOL!!! I said I was there to give their passport back to them and that I was there to renounce. That meant waiting another hour or so. The process went smoothly once started and when I was finally done and being escorted down in the elevator by a US consulate person I couldn't help it and let out a yelp of glee and said, "Yay! I'm free! I'm finally free!". The US consulate person looked a little bemused and so we just smiled at one another. 100% Canadian and proud of it!

--- Red and Mad, 2012.07 *CLN received 2012.11*

*... more Vancouver reports next page*

### Entrance to the Vancouver Consulate

The following physical descriptions mingle observations from both visits. Outside the building at 1075 West Pender, at the right side of the tower, a gatekeeper controls entry to an outdoor waiting area (cover above, no walls, open to the air). Most of those waiting (30 or so) snake counter-clockwise toward the door in a U-shaped visa lineup. A few persons line up directly ahead of the gate headed straight for the entry – these are appointments with American Citizen Services. Persons are called through the door as individuals or as small related groups. Priority seems to be given to the non-visa lineup. Immediately inside is airport-style security. The usual stuff is put into a smallish wooden tray: wallets, keys, pens, belt, everything from pockets, etc. No shoe removal required. Whatever portfolio of papers you are carrying to the appointment is scrutinized. Then you pass to the left through a scanning frame. A short stairway takes you four steps up to a small landing. On the landing you reorganize and leave the tray on the small table there. Then you turn right and climb 15 steps to another landing outside a door. After passing through that door, you are directed to step over to the left and to wait for an elevator. You are given an opportunity to use a washroom to the left of the elevator, and you are warned that no such facilities will be available beyond this point. You are escorted, possibly in a small group, up to the 20th floor. There you pass through a few turns in a small maze that you will not see again.

### Tickets for Line-Up

Both times I went to the very end of a long L-shaped (turn to the right) corridor to wicket 11 to obtain a printed line-up ticket. You are then told to find a seat and to wait to be called. Both times my ticket was numbered F-80#. There is much more activity for tickets in an A-#### series. Tickets being called for service are displayed on two small electronic Q-Matic displays mounted high on the walls at opposite ends of the first leg of the corridor. All business is conducted by standing at wickets, speaking through glass, and passing documents through a narrow space between counter and glass.

### Layout of Public Area

Decor is drab and slightly seedy institutional. No grandeur, just a harsh and unwelcoming functionality. The space seems designed to make those who enter feel like supplicants and/or prisoners. Beige walls, speckled navy carpet squares. In the small room, visible down the length of the corridor, is a poster showing a pair of hands in handcuffs with large caption: “False? Passport Real.”

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Seating is available either in the small room you enter after the maze, or in a single row of 18 flip-down seats that stretch along the right side of the first leg of the corridor (about 40-50 feet). Most of the public area is the corridor, which is about 6 feet wide. Opposite the corridor seats are wickets numbered 3 through 6, with a larger blanked-off space just before the turn around the corner (other wickets, probably 1 to 2, are in an alcove off of the small waiting room. Wickets are about 5 feet wide.). The business carried out at wickets 3 through 6 can readily be overheard, both sides of the conversations. Around the corner, to the right, wickets 7 through 11 continue along the left-hand side, after the cashier window is passed. All of my renunciation processing took place in the relative seclusion of the wickets that had no seating opposite. Exit from the premises is somewhat disorienting: an elevator in the wall opposite wickets 7 through 11 takes you directly down to the public lobby of the office building. Faint recollections of a visit to the consulate over 10 years ago says that the place is timeless, except for increased security.

#### First Appointment

My first appointment with the U.S. consulate in Vancouver occurred in February 2012. I arrived thirty minutes ahead of the appointment. After a short wait, I was called to wicket 9 at the precise time of my appointment. After brief conversation, the person (full name visible on tag) said he would “start the file.” On the tab of the file folder he wrote CLN-2012. He asked for U.S. passport (at hand), Canadian documents (not brought), telephone, and email. After a wait, I was called back to speak with ACS Chief Matthew Bunt. I was told in a factual manner that renunciation would be irrevocable, involve loss of rights, and provide no closure for legal or tax matters. At both appointments I was told that CLN processing would take from three months to one year. I was told that the second appointment would occur in the afternoon (in the actual scheduling months later I was offered options of early morning or midday, which indicates a possible change in routines). I was asked if I wanted to say why I was renouncing, and was also told that I didn’t have to. It seemed functional to make a brief previously considered verbal statement, but later on, as planned, I declined to provide anything in writing. I was given copies of three documents printed from <http://travel.state.gov/law/citizenship>: Renunciation of U.S. Citizenship, Renunciation of U.S. Citizenship by Persons Claiming a Right of Residence in the U.S., and Advice about Possible Loss of U.S. Citizenship and Dual Nationality – all printed off about a week earlier. I was given copies of DS-4079 and DS-4081 to complete and return, as well as the separate Vancouver consulate sheet that lists extra requirements for documents and information. The entire business inside the consulate took exactly one hour.

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### Second Appointment

My second appointment with the U.S. consulate in Vancouver occurred in June 2012. Appointment sequence was receipt of mailed envelope with invitation to request appointment by email, email sent to request appointment, and telephone call to arrange date and time. Entry to the building was faster the second time, and was based only on verbal assertion of appointment. In the telephone conversation about appointment I had been given a first name to mention. I started at wicket 7 with a person who handled the documents I had been asked to bring. This person seemed to deliberately keep his name tag flipped over, and when I later asked for his name, he would provide nothing beyond a verbal given name. Half an hour ahead of the scheduled time, I spent 15-20 minutes with this person. Then I was left to wait for about half an hour. Then I was called to a more remote wicket, probably wicket 10. ACS Chief Matthew Bunt first of all handed me "Fee Sheet 07/13/2010" with "08 Renunciation Document Fee \$450" ticked off and sent me to the cashier window to make payment in US dollars. When I returned with receipt he made two brief statements: about the irrevocable nature of the action, that proper documentation like Canadian passport would be required to enter the United States in the future. Then I was asked to read most of DS-4080 aloud with right hand raised. I signed two copies each of DS-4080, DS-4081, DS-4083. All of this took about twenty minutes. For about five minutes at the end I stood there while the name concealer double-checked all the paperwork. At some unspecifiable future date there is supposed to come to me in the signature-required Canada Post envelope that I was required to purchase and provide: cancelled U.S. passport and my copies of the signed forms. The entire business inside the consulate took one and one-quarter hours.

--- Renunciant B, 2012.06

... *more Vancouver reports next page*

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

I had my first appointment at the Vancouver consulate today and I wanted to share some thoughts. The consulate report directory did a good job of describing the process so I won't go into any repetitive detail but there are a few things that I want to mention.

There seems to be a security policy change.

The person who arrived with a big backpack was told that they could not bring it in and was directed to the coffee shop across the street where it would be held for a fee. However the person with a cell phone was let through. It appears that there might be a locker/storage for small items. I was distracted and did not see what happened to the aforementioned cell phone but I did see someone come from around the building (ie the exit) with a small numbered red tag and exchange it with security for something. I also saw a couple of people inside with the red tags so it MIGHT be possible to check small items.

When I was inside the person who was behind me in line sat down next to me in the waiting area and dropped a piece of paper that had isaacbrocksociety.ca written boldly across the top. We had a good conversation about why we were there and what we were expecting out of the process. (If you are reading this send me an email and let me know how it turned out for you, my email address is on my card).

I found it odd to be sitting in the waiting room listening to people applying for visitors visas (and some failing), while I was trying to get rid of my citizenship.

The one surprise I had in the interview is that I was told that I could have the second interview a just a few days after I sent in the response to the 11 question letter. The response was sent by overnight mail and I will let everyone know what happens.

They gave me a package that consisted of a cover letter with 11 items, some are questions and some are requests for documents, as well as forms DS 4079 and DS 4081 and a few informational documents.

I left the letter at work but I will paraphrase.

- 1) Provide copies of US passports, NEXUS cards etc.
  - 2) If foreign born it asks for copies of consular report of birth and similar.
  - 3) Provide copies of foreign passports
  - 4) Provide copies of the filled out forms attached.
  - 5) Last US address
  - 6) Current phone/email
  - 7) US SSN
- a) Have you sponsored any children for US Citizenship.
  - b) Have you sponsored anybody for a Visa.
  - c) Have you filed US Taxes, for what period and what forms.
  - d) What documents do you use when traveling in the US.

And yes, the questions are numbered 1 to 7 and then a to d.

--- Just a Canadian, 2012.06

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

Here's the info on my first step of relinquishment at the Vancouver Consulate today:  
-arrived 25 minutes early and lined up outside in the Citizen Services Line. The other line was for visas.

-Everyone is very courteous but the security is a bit tighter than airports but no visible weapons. Pack of gum was a mistake. I had to take it outside, open it and then bring it back in. I did leave my vehicle fob and cell phone hidden in my vehicle. I saw a few people in panic trying to dispense of their possessions.

-The document transfer inside consisted of (1) getting an order number and handing over my ID, (2) sitting down, (3) handing over my prepared forms, (4) sitting back down, (5) final discussion with the interviewer.

-4081: At the final discussion, he only took one copy, did not care that I had crossed out "renounce" all over the page, He was completely aware of the difference between renounce and relinquish and indicated that relinquishment would give me a back dated CLN in 2-12 months. Most likely 12 months. I signed the 4081 but no seal was affixed. He warned me that I would never be able to travel on a US passport or vote.

-4079: He took both copies, asked me the same questions that were on the form. I was told to come back in two months to sign the forms. They will be checking to see if I have done any patriotic acts: voting, filing, passports, etc.

-No fees at this point and they weren't interested in my immigration card with the date I entered Canada.

-I was out exactly one hour after my appointment time.

--- Relinquisher D, 2012.04

*... more Vancouver reports next page*

I had a 9:30 appointment with an ACS at the Vancouver US consulate. I arrived there at 9:00 and informed the staff person there that I had an appointment. She directed me a shorter line. The worst parts of the interview experience yesterday were the security processes and the waiting (not knowing how long I would be). I realized I had preconceived notions about what would happen without checking how things would unfold. If I had had some knowledge of the reality of all this it would have been far less stressful. So I thought I'd share that with anyone who could benefit from it.

The consulate staff I spoke with were professional and pleasant and asked the kinds of questions I was expecting. The security processes were somewhat arbitrary – a woman in front of me who was with two young children had to discard her lipsticks. She had to do that by leaving the consulate and walking next door to a courtyard where there was some kind of garbage container where she could drop her lipsticks. I was not asked to discard my lipstick (why?). Lipsticks were not on the list of things one could not bring into the consulate. Neither were any kind of “drugs”. I forgot about the few lactaid and Tylenol tablets I carried in my purse. That was enough to cause me to have to leave the security check line, give the offending material and my drivers license to another security guard, stand outside holding the loose contents of my purse along with some important documents in a wooden box for about 15 or 20 minutes before I was called in again to go through the same security process sans offending pills. Then once escorted by a security guard to the elevator and transported to the 20<sup>th</sup> floor I was given the wrong directions and stood in front of an empty wicket waiting for service. People around me, in a very crowded room were sitting on the floor (all chairs used up) and I started to wonder just how long I was going to be there.

Someone finally did come – and I was told to go to another wicket. I answered questions from two different people, and while waiting in a darkish warm hallway filled with chairs for another interviewer, heard a staff person announce that the computers had gone down but not to worry, it wasn't just them it was “the whole world”. And I thought what horrific thing could have possibly happened for all the world's computers to have shut down? And there was I sitting in a U.S. consulate and that wasn't a good thing! Later, my husband said it was probably “just” the worldwide consulate network that had problems, but at the time, I had a mini panic attack sitting in that line of chairs wondering when number X (my number) would be called again and when I could get out of that building. I was out in about two hours and I would have sworn it was eight. Time lost its usual sense for me. I felt like I was in prison. Those of you who have traveled more, especially to countries where you needed visas have probably experienced some of this. But it was all new to me.

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The second interview should be in two or three months and I believe will be much less stressful because I will be more prepared. After that interview my information goes to Washington where the final decision is made. That will probably take a year from yesterday. After that, I hear from the IRS. I knew all this but it was still sobering to hear it again and all the anger and sadness I have had about this whole process came welling up and is still very present in me.

-- One Relinquisher, 2012.03

## Consulate Report for Denmark, Copenhagen

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

I only had one appointment at the Copenhagen embassy. I don't know if that is standard practice for them or if it is because in my initial email to them I stated that I was aware of all the consequences, ramifications, fees and IRS forms and that I had already weighed my decision carefully. And they sent me all the forms to look over in an email. So there was absolutely no need for me to go twice.

--- Rødgrød, 2012.03

My renunciation went very smoothly. I was in and out of there in 45 minutes! There was no one in sight, but as I climbed the steps to the building a guard came out and greeted me. I explained that I had an appointment, so he opened up for me and I went inside where there was an airport-like security area with Danish guards. I gave my cell phone and ipod to one of the guards and walked through the metal detector.

It was a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere. I seemed to be their only "customer". Inside the embassy the guard was a US soldier. I gave him my name and he asked for my ID. First I gave him my US passport but then I realized that I would need it later in order to give it up. Oops. So I explained the situation to him and he politely accepted my driver's license instead. I sat in the lobby and waited for about 15 minutes.

I was still early and I didn't mind waiting as it gave my time to calm myself and collect my thoughts. I didn't see anyone else except the cleaning lady, who had a conversation with the guard about how to best remove the finger smudges from his teller's window. After awhile the Consul came out and received me. He was extremely apologetic for the waiting time, which I hadn't minded at all (I was early anyway). He seemed a bit stressed and he explained to me that he had to meet with the Ambassador in a few minutes. Again, he was very apologetic and wanted to assure me that he did not in any way want to undermine the seriousness of what I was doing even though we would have to do it quickly. I told him it was no problem and that I had read a lot about the procedure and felt prepared.

We went into his office and sat down. I felt he was very thorough despite the fact that he was in a rush. He explained to me that it was not his job to talk me out of it or make any judgments but that it was his job to make sure that I understood the ramifications of renouncing. He was very polite and professional and I felt totally at ease. He said that he had read my letter and that from the letter he had the impression that I was very serious about my decision.

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(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

2012.12.06

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He asked me if I could tell him a little more about why I wanted to renounce, especially since the Danish government will probably pass a law allowing dual citizenship next year. I explained to him that I felt that the less bureaucracy in my life the better, and that I only wanted to have to answer to one set of authorities. He then asked why, then, I wanted Danish citizenship instead of just having the American. I told him that I wanted to feel fully integrated here, be able to vote, etc. and that after almost 16 years it just felt like the right thing to do. I also mentioned that I want certainty about the future; that is, I want to have the same rights as every other citizen in Denmark and not be subject to the whim of immigration laws. He said that sounded fair enough. He also asked what my husband thought about it (maybe he wanted to make sure that nobody was pressuring me) and what my family in the States feels about it (it doesn't bother them). All in all I think he was just making sure that I knew what I was doing. I actually enjoyed speaking with him. He also mentioned that I could still be extradited, could not escape criminal prosecution, am still liable for any taxes owed, and about form 8854 (which they already had emailed me a copy of).

Finally, he went through the paperwork and told me that they usually get the CLN back within a few weeks. I signed the papers (I didn't have to raise my hand or repeat any oaths) and "affirmed" that I was renouncing. He then said goodbye and said he would rather have met me under other circumstances but that he wished me all the best.

I was then turned over to his assistant, a Danish guy with whom I had had lots of email and telephone contact already. The assistant took me to the cashier and I paid the \$450 (the only painful part about the whole process!). The assistant explained to me that they understood the seriousness of me not having a passport and that if I didn't get my CLN within three weeks then I should call him and he would try and get the process sped up. He also admitted that some cases do get dragged out, but if the waiting time gets really long then they could ask the State Department permission to give me a copy of the oath I signed, which should be enough for the Danes to give me a passport. And then it was over! No second appointment; if all goes well I shouldn't have to go back (\*knocking on wood\*). I think the people I met at the embassy are the most polite people I've ever met in Denmark.

---Rødgrød, 2012.02

## Consulate Report for England, London

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

First e-mail to London Renunciations to request appointment  
(londonrenunciations@state.gov): 21 March 2012

Response from London Renunciations with documents to fill out: 22 March 2012

Sent filled out docs: 28 March 2012

Notification that I was placed on waiting list for appointments: 16 April 2012

Receive appointment dates and times: 24 April 2012

First interview appointment (telephone): 23 May 2012

Second interview appointment (in person at the Embassy): 30 May 2012 – The day I  
became an ex-US Citizen

Certificate of Loss of Nationality (CLN) issued in Washington: 20 June 2012

CLN received: 26 June 2012

--- Gent's Rapier, 2012.06

*... more London reports next page*

## THE ISAAC BROCK SOCIETY CONSULATE REPORT DIRECTORY

My daughter formally renounced her US citizenship in London on 13 June. Here are the details for your consulate report directory. What may be interesting to others is that she received an unsolicited “comfort letter” acknowledging her renunciation and the preparation of a CLN.

She began the process on 16 March 2012 with an email inquiry to the US citizen services section of the US Embassy in London. They responded on 22 March with the following list of documents that she would have to provide.

1. Copies of most recent U.S. passport and all current foreign passports.
2. Copies of all Certificates of Naturalization or Certificates of Citizenship for any country, including the United States (if applicable).
3. Copy of U.S. Birth Certificate or U.S. Consular Report of Birth Abroad (if applicable).
4. Copies of all marriage certificates, divorce decrees or other change of name documents (if applicable).
5. Completed DS-4079.
6. Completed Renunciation Questionnaire.

She sent those documents in an email on 30 March, and received the following email on 16 April.

“Subject: RE: Renunciation information request  
Date: Mon, 16 Apr 2012  
From: [londonrenunciations@state.gov](mailto:londonrenunciations@state.gov)  
To: XXX

Dear Ms. XXX,

Thank you for your e-mail/fax with attachments. If any further documents are needed we will contact you.

We have placed you on the waiting list for an appointment and should be contacting you within the next couple weeks with a date.

We hope this is responsive to your inquiry.

Passport & Citizenship Unit  
American Citizen Services  
American Embassy, London “

Upon further contact, an informal telephone interview was scheduled for 6 June, followed by an in-person interview in London on 13 June.

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This is her report of the two interviews. The telephone interview lasted 10 minutes, and the in-person interview 1 hour.

**Informal telephone interview, 6 June**

My experience with the informal telephone interview started strangely enough. I was given a number with the name of the officer I was supposed to speak to, and when I called a person answered without identifying that I had even reached the Embassy. At first he didn't understand the name I had given him or why I was ringing, but I was eventually put through. The officer dealing with my renunciation identified herself and the role that she would have. She explained what the phone interview would consist of in a formal but friendly manner.

Part of the interview involved confirming the information that I had already sent in: my name, how I received US citizenship, when I last lived in the US, how long have I been in the UK, did my parents or siblings live in the US, did I have any relatives living there, did I visit frequently, did I have any children and did they have US citizenship (nothing about my husband)? She also asked if I was doing this voluntarily without coercion and whether I understood what I was doing. They were fairly straightforward questions with no real explanations or reasons or even further information needed. It was all very basic.

She then went through what renouncing would mean and its potential implications. She then said that she was satisfied by my reasons, that I had given it a lot of thought and that I was serious about renouncing. She said was happy to proceed with the next step, explaining what would happen in the final, in-person interview, where to go, what to bring, who I would be speaking to and what they would do (looking at the originals of the paperwork that I had supplied previously) and that I would be meeting her to verify and sign the paperwork and give the oath. Overall the final interview should only take an hour. She also asked if I was coming on my own or with a lawyer (!?!). I thought "I wasn't aware I needed one," but replied I would be on my own.

All in all it was fairly easy. In my case, I suppose it was fairly obvious as to why I wanted to renounce. She did ask near the end how long I had been considering renouncing which struck me as odd because it was near the end of the interview. I didn't really have an answer prepared for this question so gave what I hope was a fairly bland reply. The phone call lasted no more than 10 minutes. My final interview is next week, to which apparently am not allowed to take a mobile phone, with no facilities nearby as to where I can leave it. With young children at home, this makes me very uneasy and seems very unnecessary. I now have to think about what I will do.

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**In-person interview, 13 June**

Before the final in-person interview, I checked to make sure I knew where to go, and was frustrated to read again that no mobile phones or other electrical items and no large bags, etc., were allowed in the embassy. A list was given of locations where you could securely leave your things. I wasn't sure whether that meant my handbag or not but decided since I had to leave my phone best to leave my handbag as well to make sure I wasn't turned away. Travelling from an hour away, there was no way I was going the whole trip without my handbag and phone, especially with young children at home. It was bad enough having to leave my phone in Left Luggage for a couple of hours. To safely leave my handbag at a train station nowhere near the embassy cost £8.50 and not the £5.50 as said on the list. Funnily enough, the staff member at left luggage said to me – "Going to the American Embassy then." I hadn't even said a word.

I finally arrived at the embassy with only a vague memory of where I was supposed to go and what to expect, only be told to go away and come back as they were on their lunch break. I returned, waited to go through security who didn't seem to understand why I was there, never mind my repeating "renunciation" several times. "Pronunciation?" they asked.

I then followed another lady to a desk where I was given a ticket with a number. I thought I had an interview. I walked into the waiting room to see other people with large bags, suitcases even. They eventually called my name up to the window where an English person asked to see my documents, and said he would photocopy them while I was to purchase an envelope to have my certificate and other papers couriered back to me. So I went to purchase this envelope at £15 from the desk that gave me the ticket number. I went back to wait until I was called to another window. This time I spoke to the officer I had spoken to the week before for the informal telephone interview. She again simply asked background details such as dates I lived in the US to confirm what I had said over the phone but did not ask why I wanted to renounce- I have never been asked this question through the whole process, which I found interesting.

I had to read and sign the list of potential consequences. I signed my name on various papers, even had to write my name in cursive which I haven't done since I was 13, before reading the oath of renunciation. She asked if I could see the American flag behind her to which I said yes. Apparently, I needed to see the flag. While I paid the USD 450 fee at the next window, she made sure all my signatures were OK and then she handed me a "comfort" letter — with my American passport taken, she said that I needed something to explain my situation if I had to go back to the US while waiting for my certificate of loss of nationality. Overall she was very polite, even friendly with no judgement whatsoever.

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She then explained the next step, ie that it would take around 6 weeks for the paperwork to be cleared by Department of State in Washington, DC, but that it would all be backdated to today, the day I renounced. I was also given a FAQ sheet to do with taxes and told that the embassy have nothing to do with taxes, but that there was an IRS department within the Embassy. I was then free to leave- no longer a US citizen, paperwork pending.

The text of the “comfort” letter follows:

“Embassy of the United States of America  
Passport & Citizenship Unit  
London

Dear Ms. XXX,

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your United States Passport number XXX which was issued in your name on XXX, 19XX. You have surrendered this passport in connection with your formal renunciation of United States citizenship. A Certificate of Loss of Nationality (CLN) has been prepared in your name and will be forwarded to the Department of State in Washington D.C. for approval, in accordance with the provisions of Section 349(a)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

When the CLN has been approved by the Department of State, you will be furnished with a certified copy of the document.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office. The telephone number is XXX.

Sincerely,  
XXX  
Vice Consul”

Once more, thanks to the IBS site and to all its contributors. It has been an invaluable resource for us as we work our way through this (disagreeable) process.

--- Lord Jim, 2012.06

*CLN Received 2012.11*



## Consulate Report for Europe (unspecified consulate)

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

You Canadians sure are lucky.

I renounced in Europe and I did not – AT ALL – receive the same treatment as you.

First, I was in the embassy months before, for another administrative reason, and I witnessed a renunciation, broadcast over the loudspeaker in front of the whole waiting room filled with good people there to renew passports or get visas etc... I was shocked at the brutal interrogation given to the poor person, the aggressive questioning and the attempts to make them mention anything to do with filing or taxes. Just to clarify, when I say broadcast, the way it happens is they have line of tellers windows like in a bank (ha ha!) or post office. The consular employees comments are amplified by a loudspeaker to pass through the window, so everyone in the 50 person + waiting room can hear what he is saying very clearly.

Good thing I had this experience under my belt, since I was not expecting to be treated fairly or even decently when I went in for my interview. I got the same person I had seen before.

In my country it was 2 visits, and I had no problem obtaining the visits and did not have to wait.

Indeed I was in for a rough questioning. I was greeted with the statement “why do YOU (as in , YOU of all people? ) want to renounce? It doesn't COST you anything!!” The only sense I can make out of this statement is, he had investigated my (boring and modest) tax history and so he knew I had never owed US taxes despite filing a lengthy report every year... I was convinced by his tone of voice that he had investigated me, as you must sign up weeks before the first interview.

From there forward I was interrogated and every justification I gave he wanted examples, which I did not provide. I do not want to be discriminated against, I said. “Have you been discriminated against? How? Give me examples?” I want to be treated like other Europeans, I said “Are you not, then? In what way?” I said the State Department materials advise against dual nationalities as it can cause problems “Have YOU had any problems? What problems have you had?” and on it went until after about 4 minutes he signed off on the paper he was writing furious notes on, which he did not show me and I could not see what was written.

On my 2nd interview I had requested at the outset to obtain copies of my signed and stamped declarations, and he had said “we'll see what we can do”.

At the end of the process after I handed over all the papers and my passport, he said, “You are no longer American, good bye”. I started panicking, and said, “I have just signed some very important statements I would please like to have a copy”. Sorry, was the answer,

*... continued*

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

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*... continued*

that's not possible, the procedure is that you will get your CLN in the mail. I can't help you. You are no longer American, good bye.

Absolutely gutted, panicked and shaking I left the embassy and started sobbing as soon as I hit the sidewalk outside.

The good news is, I got my CLN just 3 weeks later; it was in fact approved just 5 working days after my visit.

I'm sorry I can't give exact dates or country out of fear as I don't wish to be identified.

--- Free at Last, reported to Brock 2012.06

## Consulate Report for France, Marseilles

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

### Renunciation at the Marseille Consulate July/August 2012

First contact (end July) by phone was predictable. Although I informed the clerk that I was aware of the renunciation procedure and had downloaded from the internet the required forms (DS-4079, DS-4080 and DS-4081) she insisted on asking me most of the questions already appearing on the forms. She was unable (or unwilling) to answer my questions such as when could I have an appointment, how long would the process take, when would I have to pay the 450\$ processing fee etc. She said she would answer my questions by email.

A day or two later I did receive an email from this same person. She sent me the link to the US State Dept. regarding the procedure for renunciation. She confirmed that I would have to pay the 450\$ at the time of my interview, send documents DS-4079, DS-4080 and DS-4081 and copies of my foreign passport and citizenship/naturalization documentation to the Consulate through the mail. (note: I do not possess a foreign passport, only an identity card and I never retained the documentation regarding my naturalization).

The consulate refused to schedule an appointment until I sent the documents through the mail. I responded that this was against the State Dept procedure and according to the State Dept. link the consulate sent me, it clearly states that the request for renunciation cannot be done through the mail and must be done in person at an embassy or consulate. The clerk I was communicating with answered in an email *"To bring any further clarifications on matter, please note that each consulate or embassy apply their own rules."*

This answer infuriated me as I was trying to follow procedures dictated by the State Dept. yet the Consulate intended to do what suited them. Another example of American bureaucratic arrogance! My answer back outlined each example of the State Dept. policy and in each instance the Consulate's non adherence to this policy. I wrote that I intended to contact the State Dept. directly unless the Consulate agreed to follow procedure and accord me an appointment to submit the documents, pay the fee, take the oath and sign the documents in the presence of a Consulate officer.

I did not receive an answer to this email so I decided to contact the State Dept. in Washington and report what I experienced. I received an immediate & useless standard reply that listed 20+ different website links I could consult regarding State Dept. services.

However, to my surprise, 6 days later I received an email from the Marseille Consulate stating only *"This is to confirm that you are welcome to bring all the documents on your interview. Thank you in advance for letting us know if Friday August 31 at 9:00 am would work for you."* I have no proof of this but I suspect the State Dept. slapped the hand of the Consulate for not following procedure, I hope so anyway. I felt empowered.

I sent two emails to the clerk at the Consulate asking if the appointment could be scheduled an hour later and asked if I had to pay the fee in dollars, could I pay in euro and if yes at what exchange rate. I did not receive an answer so I telephoned the clerk. She agreed to schedule the appointment for an hour later and asked me if I would send a copy of the forms through the mail beforehand (which I agreed to do). She also confirmed that I could pay the fee in euro and that she would confirm the amount in an email.

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

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The very next day I received an email confirming the fee would be 383 euro and that I should bring the amount in exact change, that my appointment had been rescheduled to 10 o'clock and that I should mail a copy of the forms beforehand. I sent the clerk an email asking her family name so that I could mail the documents to her attention.

The following day she emailed me the following: **To clarify, please note that there is no guarantee we will be able to take cash on your appointment day. To stay on the safe side, you may wish to bring your credit card (Visa, AmExpress or MasterCard) as well as cash.**

**I am sorry but I'd rather not provide my last name.**

How bizarre!

August 31<sup>st</sup> . Had my appointment at the Consulate. Total time spent there was about 1 hour. I was amazed at how friendly and professional everyone was. They took the payment in cash 383 euro with no questions asked. They didn't demand that I produce a foreign passport and accepted my Belgian ID card as sufficient proof of my Belgian nationality. The Consular general was an extremely pleasant, personable and interesting person and she conducted the interview and signing of the documents with intelligence and graciousness. She stated that I should receive the CLN within two months.

Not at all what I had expected considering the bizarre nature of the contacts by phone and email I had over the past month. I look forward to receiving the CLN and will report back exactly when it arrives.

--- Dunja, 2012.09

\*\*\*\*\*

After going through a draconian security control, my husband and I were admitted to the Consulate in Marseille on the agreed upon date. We were the only people present aside from the Consul and the consular staff behind the guichets.

The Consul also mentioned, in passing, that there would be a \$450 fee for renouncing, which no one had told me prior to my arrival. He then asked me to sit down and contemplate the gravity of my decision for about 15 minutes, after which we proceeded to the formal renouncement in front of the American flag

I was told that I would receive a Certificate of Renunciation and a bill for \$450 within a couple of months. I have still not received my Certificate of Loss of Nationality, or the bill. I sent an email asking about the delay, and I was informed that due to the elevated number of renunciations, it was taking longer than foreseen to process the CLN.

--- K, 2012.05 (Renounced 2012.01, CLN received 2012.08)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Consulate Report for Germany, Frankfurt

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

Only 1 appointment ca. 4 weeks after initial contact, with information exchanged by letter and e-mail beforehand, so I and the consulate had everything needed. (Possibly an appointment space had opened up, because they initially said it would be 8-12 weeks.)

I took my US passport, my “Einbürgerungszusicherung” from Germany (saying that the Germans would give me citizenship when I got the “Certificate of Loss of Nationality”) and the Statement of Understanding, plus the form for the fee.

The vice consul was quite courteous, but made sure I was serious about it and understood it was irrevocable.

They took my US passport and gave me a sort of receipt (in German) for it.

3 weeks later, the consulate sent the Certificate of Loss of Nationality and the invalidated passport by certified mail (Einschreiben).

It took about a week to get a notarized translation of the Certificate of Loss of Nationality, which I needed to become a German, and another 2 weeks until I had a passport again.

A colleague who has to travel a lot for his job somehow managed to get the US consulate and the German side to coordinate so he was only without travel ID for about 1 1/2 weeks.

--- Sally 2012.03

## Consulate Report for Hong Kong

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

USxCanada can vouch for the reliability of the following reporter, personally known for over three decades. This report of *no-fee relinquishment in Hong Kong*, authorized for release to Brock, is cut-and-pasted from a just-received email. This case provides further evidence that residents of **Canada** are suffering execrable treatment by the country from which they seek release.

Date of first appointment: 2012.02

Date of second appointment: 2012.03

Date of receipt of CLN: 2012.04 (stamped approved by DoS end of March, received end of April)

The consulate informed me at my second appointment that it should be "weeks, not months" till receipt of my CLN as Washington was supposed to be processing quickly, which turned out to be the case.

I truthfully characterized my intent at the time of performing my potentially expatriating act (working for a foreign government) as "if not knowing, at least negligent or reckless" as to loss of US citizenship, which DoS accepted.

I likewise characterized my subsequent filing of US income tax returns (2 or 3 years' worth) as "evidence less of intent to retain US citizenship than intent to avoid IRS \*filing\*-related penalties" (I have not \*owed\* lo these many years), which DoS likewise accepted.

I hope this information is useful to those waiting for their CLNs and especially to those hoping to relinquish.

## Consulate Report for Japan, Tokyo

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

Shortly after his relinquishment, Eido posted his story on Brock (see page 61). Recently, he has posted and even more detailed account on <http://www.turning-japanese.info/2012/07/relinquishing-us-citizenship-in-tokyo.html> and given us permission to reprint it here.

### PART 1 of 4

Like many (but not all) countries, Japan requires that you relinquish / formally abandon / renounce your other original citizenship as a condition for naturalization, if that country allows it. The U.S. does, and the procedure is called "relinquishment", not "renunciation". The U.S. system is unique in that there are two ways to lose your U.S. citizenship, and the better way to lose it is through "relinquishment". It's a bit of a contortion of the word, as the U.S., due to the way the 14th amendment in its Constitution works, doesn't actively go out and seek out people that have committed "expatriating" acts, such as naturalization to another country or formally choosing another existing nationality like some dual-national Japanese-Americans do. Relinquishing has some benefits over renunciation:

1. It is free ([renouncing is \\$450](#)).
2. Certain parts of U.S. law that punish people who expatriate for tax purposes do not apply (such as [The Reed Amendment](#)) to those who relinquish their citizenship.
3. The effective date of your loss of nationality on your CLN (certificate of loss of nationality) back dates to the day you naturalized. So legally you were never a dual citizen!
4. There is no Renunciation Oath or ceremony; you simply raise your right hand and swear that all the oral and written answers and forms you've provided are true.
5. It is slightly easier to appeal after the fact. Although you should consider both renunciation and relinquishment permanent and irrevocable; renunciation is *almost impossible* to appeal. Relinquishment is *very difficult* to appeal. Note that this *does not* mean you can never have U.S. citizenship again. It just means that you can't *not* mean you can never have U.S. citizenship again. It just means that you can't make it as if the renunciation never happened. If you want U.S. citizenship again, you have to do it the hard way and get in line just like every other foreigner wanting U.S. citizenship; you need to naturalize. According to [7 FAM 1211](#):

“h. Relinquish v. renounce: INA 349(a)(5) prescribes how renunciation of U.S. citizenship must occur. This is explained in detail in 7 FAM 1280. A citizen may also voluntarily relinquish U.S. citizenship upon committing

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voluntarily one of the other potentially expatriating acts enumerated in INA 349 and possessing the requisite intent to relinquish. The distinction becomes meaningful when a person who has been found to have lost U.S. citizenship later requests an appeal or administrative review of that decision. It is much more difficult to establish a lack of intent or duress for renunciation of U.S. citizenship.”

When you're at the U.S. embassy, you do have to watch your mouth and your actions a bit when you do the procedure: if for some reason the officer is not made aware of your naturalization (for example, for some bizarre reason you decide to lie and say you've always had Japanese citizenship and you didn't do the Choice of Nationality Form), it is possible they might judge your actions to be a renunciation. I've never read about a case like this happening though. The closest I've seen is ['s documented encounter](#) where he tried to insist that the U.S. consular officers proceed even though they thought he thought he was doing the procedure against his will. His cancelled passport and CLN, which he posted, show that his loss of U.S. nationality was indeed a relinquishment, not a renouncement.

Japan's naturalization system understands how U.S. naturalization laws work, and thus the U.S. is a special case in that it sets it up so you do your business with the U.S. *after* you acquire Japanese citizenship. This is to set up the "expatriating event" number in INA (immigration and nationality act) 349(a)1, so you are recognized as having relinquished as opposed to renouncing your citizenship so the harsher laws don't kick in. Likewise, this is also one reason why Japan has Americans do the (Choice of Nationality Form) separate and before the (Loss of Foreign Nationality Form): doing the formal choice on paper first sets up the 349(a)2 expatriating event: taking an oath, affirmation or other formal declaration to a foreign state.

Contrary to popular belief, you can renounce your U.S. citizenship without having any other citizenships and make yourself stateless; there are a few documented cases of people doing this on the net. I will go out on a limb here and state that, regardless of whether you prefer one state's government or another, being stateless is still, even in the 21st century, a very bad idea.

So, how do you go about relinquishing your U.S. citizenship? Step 1 is going to an embassy or consulate. You can do this anywhere, no matter what state you're a new citizen of. The only place you *can't* get rid of your U.S. citizenship is when you're physically inside the United States (except during a time of formal declared war — and even if you do this, there is no guarantee, like U.S. taxes, that the U.S. will not try to hold you to the duties of the draft).

But here's the problem: at least in Tokyo, the U.S. embassy does not allow civilians to enter the U.S. embassy without an appointment, unless it's an emergency. And the preferred way to set up an appointment is to use their web site. I say "preferred" because they've done a pretty good job of hiding their phone number on the web site, and when

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you do find their phone number, you are put through DTMF push touch tone phone menu hell, with each step reminding you of oh-how-convenient the web site is and are you sure you wouldn't rather hang up and do this on the web rather than wait on hold? And if you *do* get to the end of the menu, you will probably go straight to voice mail, where you will leave your name and number and if you're lucky they will call you back when it's convenient for them and inconvenient for you — for example, when you are in a tunnel in the subway and they get *your* voice mail and they tell you they called but don't leave a name or direct number so you have to go through phone menu hell again to leave yet another voice mail message in a game of phone tag. Yes, you can tell by this rant that I've done this and I did not consider it to be a customer satisfaction moment.

Here's the second problem: on their U.S. embassy site and appointment system, "renunciation" and/or "relinquishment" is not on the menu. While the State Department has many pages about what it is, what the laws are, and the warnings about the consequences, the web page templates for most U.S. embassies and consulates around the world do not list "citizenship renunciation or relinquishment" as a service available from the ACS (American Citizen Services).

Going through the web menu, I pick the closest thing I can think of, "Passport Services: Other", and schedule a half-day paid leave from my work vacation allotment to spend at the embassy.

Arriving on time at the embassy, I wait my turn inside the section called "American Citizen Services" until my number is called. I watch a few downs of a NFL game being rebroadcast over a high def TV connected to some U.S. military satellite channel. It takes about 15 minutes for my name to be called.

A nice Japanese woman who spoke English with an non-native accent calls me up. She asks how I can be helped.

I am forced to speak to her through a thick bulletproof glass with perforations for speaking, a slit for transferring documentation, and a microphone and speaker in case the holes in the thick glass aren't enough. It's a lot like a 24 hour gas station in the states. Or an OTB (off-track betting) site that deals with a lot of cash.

The woman elects to use the speaker and microphone, meaning there's no privacy and everyone else in ACS can hear our conversation. I state my purpose.

"Hi. I recently naturalized to Japanese and as part of that formal process I need to renounce my citizenship."

"Excuse me?"

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Apparently this takes her by surprise. I think she, based on me selecting "Passport services: other", is expecting me transfer a visa or something like that. So I reword my statement and repeat myself.

"Oh no! You know that America won't do anything to your U.S. citizenship if you decide to keep it." This comment took me by surprise. I expected embassy officials to give advice by the book, and not encourage people to disobey Japanese law.

"Yes, I understand. However, I'm more concerned as to what Japan might someday do to me if I don't follow their laws concerning naturalization. I'd prefer to do things by the book, thank you."

She then explains to me that she's not authorized to handle this sort of transaction, and I really need to talk to an official "consular officer" to do this procedure.

"May I speak to the consular officer then?"

"Unfortunately, the consular officer is very busy. You will need to make an appointment."

So I explain to her that the web site doesn't really have a menu option for either renouncing/relinquishment or "speaking to a consular officer."

"Correct. I am not in charge of making appointments for the consular officer. You will need to make an appointment with Oshima."

"Okay, got it. May I speak to Oshima?"

"She's not in today. But here's her direct line so you can call her to arrange an appointment with a consular officer." She slips a phone number on a Post-It through the slit at the bottom of the window.

Sigh. A half-day of work leave wasted. Oh well. It's not all for naught. I got a phone number that's not on the web site out of it. I thanked her and told her I will call immediately after I leave the embassy — they confiscate your cell phone when you are inside the embassy.

"One last thing", she says to me. "Are you being coerced or forced against your will to renounce your citizenship?"

I'm taken aback by this question too, because although I know this is a by-the-book question (the 14th amendment won't allow you to lose your U.S. citizenship against your will), she had just told me that she is effectively powerless with respect to matters involving naturalization. Against better judgement, I decide to test her sense of humor.

"Actually, now that you mention it, there is this guy waiting for me outside the embassy with a gun..."

What seemed like just a split second after I say "gun", I see her eyes open manga-wide and her eyebrows rise up in alarm, like a TSA agent who has just been told at the security check point that actually, yes, I do have some box cutters in my check in baggage.

"No, no, no, no! Sorry, bad joke. I'm Sorry. So Sorry. I think I'm dehydrated. The vending machines are over there, right? Really, I'm sorry. No, I'm doing this willingly under my own volition."

I look around for any signs that say making bomb jokes is a felony — similar to the ones you see at airports. There are none. Still, lesson learned. Embassy people are jumpy. And they assume the people they deal with are potentially dangerous and they are in a dangerous foreign land. The fortress-like security, where American citizens are handled the same way that American citizens are handled when they visit federal prisons to visit incarcerated people, should have tipped me off that this is a no-black-humor zone.

I would later learn, after explaining my day to a friend that works at the embassy, that like bank tellers, all of the windows at ACS (and the visa area) are equipped with "panic buttons" under the counter, which sounds a silent alarm and alerts the armed U.S. Marines who guard the embassy.

After I leave the embassy, I collect my bag from security, turn my returned cell phone back on, and immediately call the direct number that I was given.

It goes straight to voice mail. I silently sigh and leave my name, number, and purpose.

## **PART 2 OF 4**

During my first attempt at trying to relinquish my U.S. citizenship as part of the Japanese naturalization process, I learned that not just anybody at the embassy can process you, these people are very few and are very busy, and losing your U.S. citizenship is rare enough that it's not standard procedure and you will need to hook up with special phone numbers and appointments to bypass the standard "passport and visa and marriage and birth" services that make up the bulk of the American Citizen Services (ACS) work at the U.S. embassy.

Unfortunately, I wasn't having much luck with the special "direct line" phone number that was given to me for making the appointment. I couldn't get a human to answer the phone; it kept going straight to voice mail. After waiting two business weeks for a return call, I called again. Got the voice mail again. I left another message. And I waited. Another week (five business days) passed and I didn't get a call back. Could she have given me the wrong number? Did the person checking the voice mail think I was a crank caller?

Frustrated, I attempted to circumvent the system using connections. One of the nice things about going to networking events in Tokyo for the expat population is you

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eventually get to meet interesting and well connected people from various industries. I

happened to have a <sup>meishi</sup> 名刺 (business calling card) from a U.S. embassy employee, and we had exchanged mails and met over several functions that year, and she knew me and about me acquiring Japanese citizenship.

I mailed her and explained my situation. She gave me *her* direct number at the embassy, and she told me to call right after lunch the next day.

I call my contact at the embassy as she instructed, and I connect to her immediately.

"Hi! She's at her desk. I'll transfer your call to her."

So she transfers the call. Except when she transfers, it goes straight to voice mail. I hang up and call her back. "Are you sure she's at her desk?"

"Uh, yeah, let's try this again. I'll tell her to expect a call to be transferred." This time I get through. Oshima apologizes, and we then play calendar 20 questions. Apparently this is a game where I'm not permitted to ask when the consul officer is available. I *can* however request a date and she will tell me if the date is possible or not. Apparently the consul officer travels as much as I do (in my head I was envisioning me finding time in between golf course reservations with other ambassadors), as there is more than three weeks left in the month and there were only two days he was available. I book the earlier day.

I ask her how I should get in the embassy, as they require you show an I.D. and proof that you made an appointment, but I won't have a print out from the web site showing an appointment. "Just have them or you call my number," she says. Trying to think optimistically (no voice mail), I thank her again.

At the day of the appointment, I enter with no problems. When I'm at the gate, I explain to the Japanese guard in Japanese that I'm here for a special appointment and here's the number to call to confirm. They let me through.

When I get inside the embassy, I discover that my appointment is not with a consul officer after all. It's more of a consul officer "in training". At the window, to the left of him, is a Japanese-American (I'm guessing because we're inside the embassy, even though she had a non-native English accent) who is supervising him and coaching him — she would be whispering into his ear while I spoke to "him". I see he has a printout of the Foreign Affairs Manual 1200 section, a blank [DS-4079 \(Request for Determination of possible loss of U.S. citizenship\)](#), a blank [CLN \(DS-4083\)](#), the [DS-4081: Statement of Understanding of Concerning the Consequences and Ramifications of Renunciation or Relinquishment of U.S. Citizenship](#), and the dual purpose check-list form that is used to determine if I'm willfully renouncing/relinquishing with the intent to lose U.S. citizenship and whether the loss of citizenship is a renunciation or a relinquishment. [DS-4082: Witnesses Attestation Renunciation/Relinquishment of Citizenship](#) is not present.

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Prepared, I had pre-filled out all of the above paperwork, and had brought

koseki

my 戸籍 (Japanese family register) and my Japanese passport in addition to my U.S. one. I had also read the Foreign Affairs Manual from section 1200 so I had a good idea regarding the procedure he would take and the questions he would ask me. I was trying to complete the process that day.

Although a relinquishment back dates to the time you naturalized, for your final U.S. taxes, your last day as an American is the day the embassy "receives your paperwork." They do this to prevent the loophole that would exist where you could naturalize, wait many years, report the expatriating event, receive a CLN that's dated a few years in the past, then claim to the IRS that you were not a U.S. citizen for the last couple of years and therefore not subject to U.S. citizenship-based taxation. Additionally, you can't file the 8854 (expatriation statement) "logging you out" of the IRS until you get your approved CLN & cancelled U.S. passport in the mail from the U.S. Department of State. For an American's last tax filing, they submit at least (probably in addition to the [2555: foreign earned income](#) exclusion

For an American's last tax filing, they submit at least (probably in addition to the [2555: foreign earned income](#) exclusion and [1116: foreign tax credit](#) form) three forms:

1. a [1040](#) for the part of a year before the acceptance of your DS-4081, DS-4082, and DS-4083.
2. a [1040NR \(a 1040 for "non-resident aliens"\)](#) for the part of the year that occurs after the embassy receives and accepts your renunciation application (which is different from the date of approval and the date of loss of nationality)
3. a [8854 form \(expatriation statement\)](#) that determines if they're a "covered expatriate" or a "non-covered expatriate". If you're non-covered, you're in luck. Providing you don't live in the U.S. under a visa or permanent residency and don't stay longer than 60 days per year, you never have to file again. If you're "covered," you pay The Exit Tax and keep filing 8854 for the next ten years.

The only time you would not need to file a 1040NR is if the date that the renunciation/relinquishment occurs (defined by the date they accept the paperwork) is December the 31st — which is impossible to do, as U.S. embassies and consulates are closed for non-emergencies for U.S. holidays like New Year's Eve.

My appointment was on December the 20th, though, and I was determined to get them to accept my paperwork that day as it would make my 1040NR very simple: lots of zeros as it's a tax return for eleven days, most of which would be spent on holiday earning no income.

To make matters worse, I'm hard of hearing that day; I had an accident with my daughter

mimikaki

and a 耳かき (Japanese ear cleaner/pick) the day before — don't ask — and a big blood clot formed in my ear canal making me temporarily hearing impaired in my left ear. The trainee wasn't using the microphone and speaker system, and I wanted to hear

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want the supervisor was saying and make sure that she could hear me too, even though she was not in front of the perforations in the window where it's easy to hear. So, I was putting my ear close to the glass like an old man, and I was raising my voice so that the woman to the guy's side could directly hear me without having the trainee rephrase my statements and questions.

As before, there was zero privacy regarding this matter. The other people in the ACS are all there to report an event of joy: doing something related to marriage, doing something related to a birth, and doing something related to living and working in the New World. During the winter holidays too! As I was raising my voice to make myself heard, I noticed the other Americans and their Japanese spouses and children looking at me with suspicion. "America is such a wonderful place! Why am I here today with this *maniac* who is delivering his anti-America manifesto to these nice people! I bet he's some sort of animé loving confused weebos Japan apologist!" I imagined them thinking. One American did comment after I was told to have a seat so they could read my papers, "Renunciation?! That's a new one!"

He calls me back to the window and then starts reading me the DS-4083 item by item, and his tone of voice is in the form of a warning — as if he's trying to scare me.

"You understand that you may need a visa to come back and live or visit the United States?" "Yes."

"You understand that your children may not receive U.S. citizenship?" The smart-ass devil in the back of my head was tempted to say "Oh, I'll just have the mother fly to the U.S. and give birth to an anchor baby that gets citizenship *jus soli* and may eventually one day be able to become president," but I kept my mouth shut and solemnly said "Yes, I understand."

He did make at least one mistake that his supervisor didn't catch: he said that I would never be able to get U.S. citizenship again. [7 FAM 1211 section i](#) specifically says that:

“Individuals who lose citizenship would need to reacquire it through naturalization.” So now I'm getting a little miffed that I'm getting a trainee. After spending all that time finding a time to meet the VIP (and taking another half of my paid work days), I find out I'm getting a rookie that probably can't accept my forms. I have no problem talking to a trainee when I'm say, at a fast food restaurant. But when I'm doing something that's permanent and important with lifelong ramifications? I want the seasoned pro who's done tons of these and can do them in his or her sleep. Rather than argue with him, I nod, as I'm motivated to complete the handover of paperwork before near the end of the year, and hopefully receive my CLN before the U.S. April tax deadline.

At the end of the questions, he gives me back my completed forms and tells me, "why don't you think this over, and make another appointment if I still want to proceed." Knowing that I'm near my self-imposed end of year deadline, and knowing how hard it is to book an appointment, I start to get a little frustrated.

"Oh, thanks for the caution, and I know you're required to say that as part of your job, but I assure you, I've spent at least half my adult life thinking about this in one way or another and getting to this point, and I didn't naturalize on a whim. It was a process that took years to earn and months to complete. If you don't mind, I'd really appreciate it if you could accept my application today please."

My trainee starts getting defensive, probably because he's not authorized to receive renunciation/relinquishment paperwork as a trainee. His "coach," sensing him starting to lose control of the process, starts leaning her head into the speaking portal in front of him during our discussion, practically pushing the late twenty-something guy out of the way as she takes control of the conversation. At one point I see them looking at their watches, and he starts filibustering me by giving me a speech about the procedures (which he's reading from a printout). I'm not going to leave without getting them to at least receive my paperwork, so I attempt to interject. He protests "would you let me finish please?" Uh oh. I imagine him thinking he wants to press the "trouble" button under the counter.

Eventually, I got [my paperwork "signed and submitted"](#), which accomplished one goal. They did give me one bizarre hand-made form which they asked me to fill out. They also said that to complete the process, regardless of whether they had the paperwork or not, I'd have to make yet another appointment with a real consul officer to review the paperwork and swear directly to him that the information is true and correct.

He gave me some printouts of [web pages from the state.gov site](#) about the laws and consequences regarding the loss of U.S citizenship as a souvenir of my visit, so I can read them later and think about the ramifications of the action I'm trying to take:

- [Renunciation of U.S. Citizenship](#)
- [Renunciation of U.S. Citizenship by Persons Claiming a Right of Residence in the U.S.](#)
- [Advice about Possible Loss of U.S. Citizenship and Dual Nationality](#)

The "[CLN Personal info sheet](#)" (available in [our Docs and Forms page](#)) looked like this:

**Information sheet for renunciation/relinquishment**

Please provide the following information and return this form to our office by fax/mail with the enclosed forms.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Country in which you are residing: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of which you are a citizen: \_\_\_\_\_

Precise period of your physical presence in the United States:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Your mailing address:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

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Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

I laughed at the measly three lines for "Precise period of your physical presence in the United States," but I was depressed by its demands. It was not easy to figure out my period of physical presence in Japan. But for the United States? In my lifetime? Unless U.S. immigration provides me with access to their database, it's not going to be precise. I'll do my best, though. Additionally, I was alarmed that they were asking me for my Social Security Number. None of the other DS-4079, DS-4081, DS-4082, and DS-4083 official forms asked for this information, and your [Social Security number and status is generally unaffected by whether you're a U.S. citizen or an alien.](#)

After leaving the embassy, I turn on my returned mobile phone and make another call to Oshima to set up another appointment with the real consul officer. It goes straight to voicemail. I would not get a return call that year, despite leaving three messages.

### **PART 3 OF 4**

At the beginning of the new year I vow to use my internal contact at the embassy again to get a hold of Oshima who will then get me an appointment to see a real consul officer who can finally process my relinquishment of U.S. citizenship.

My friend (who I treated to dinner and drinks over the holidays to thank her for all her help) apologizes for her colleague's behavior, saying she has a little bit of a reputation of flakiness. I call her number. She then makes sure Oshima is aware that she's going to get a call on her desk, then transfers me.

After getting Oshima on the voice line, I explain that this will be the third time I've been to the embassy and I've already spoken with the person who did due diligence and made sure I received my obligatory speech about the seriousness of the action, and I've given it some careful thought over the holidays — (Happy New Year!) by the way — and can she set me up with the actual consul person for the final step? Oshima says sure, please hold.

I hear hold music. About ten minutes later ... click!

She — accidentally, I hope — hung up on me while waiting on hold. I immediately call her back within ten seconds (after swearing a bit, as she can't hear me), knowing she has to be at her desk because she just hung up on me while at her desk.

It goes straight to voice mail. So I sigh, and call my contact and have her transfer the call after explaining that we got accidentally disconnected. I lied and said it was my cell phone connection, because I didn't want Oshima or her to get in trouble. She connects me to Oshima.



Oshima apologizes and says she's having difficulty finding an open date on the calendar. Could we continue this conversation via email perhaps? Why yes, we can! I say. She asks me for my email address and I give it to her. I then hang up and await her email.

One whole week passes. I then receive a template email from the embassy. In addition to asking me to guess a date that the consul officer is free, it asks me to digitize and send/fax the forms that I've already provided the embassy. To add insult to injury, I can't really reply directly to Oshima; the mail is unsigned, and the return address goes to a generic "embassy" address used by a pool of workers, not to any specific individual that is familiar with my case.

I call my contact at the embassy and explain the situation.

"I'm sorry. They told me that I'm not allowed to help you personally anymore, because it's not fair to everybody else that has to go through the queue."

So now I'm cut off and have to start over, re-submitting my paperwork and probably will have to talk to somebody that doesn't know me and I'll have to redundantly answer the same questions.

Despite my frustration with the constant (unintentional) runarounds, unanswered calls, and unresponsiveness I'm getting from the bureaucracy at the Tokyo Embassy, I have no choice but to deal with it. After all, it's not like I can go to a competing embassy across the street if I'm unsatisfied with the service level of the Tokyo embassy, right?

### ... OR CAN I? ...

Taiwan is less than 3 hours away by plane and one timezone away from Tokyo. It's a relatively cheap flight. And [Taiwan has a lot of experience with renunciations and relinquishment](#) due to the nature of [Taiwanese identity and nationality](#).

Funny story: my high school cheerleader sweetheart, at 17, broke up with me right after prom because I did not understand the geopolitical differences between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China. When quizzed about it, I felt like [George W. Bush being asked who was the president of Taiwan](#) during the election season.

Unlike the [templated cookie cutter web sites of the other U.S. embassies and consulates](#) in the world, [the American Institute in Taiwan \(AIT\) actually mentions the renunciation procedure on its website](#), **and** it gives a expectation for the number of visits!

A bonus: because of U.S. politics and its relationship with the People's Republic of China, America can't have an "embassy" or "consulate" in Taiwan. Instead, it has a "non-profit organization" [wink wink] that just so happens to perform many of the duties and services that real embassies and consulates do — thanks to it being staffed by "private staff on leave from the State Department" [wink wink nudge nudge]. All the benefits of a consulate/embassy ACS but without the safe-from-tank assault walls, U.S. military guards, blast doors, bulletproof glass, and panic buttons! I may actually get to speak to a person face-to-face, and breathe the same air! Well worth the airplane ticket cost, in my

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opinion. I'd make a vacation out of it and get the great Taiwanese culture and food! Kind of like flying to Vegas to get married. Except I'm flying to Taipei to get a figurative divorce from my original government!

Double bonus: They give a Taiwan local phone number to call to make an appointment! I take out my cell and call it on a lark. It goes to voice mail. Darn, too good to be true. Nevertheless, I tell them that I'm an American, I live in Japan, and I want to relinquish my citizenship. And I give them an international country code +81 Japan cell phone number to call me back on.

I get a call back! In less than 24 hours! And, the woman helping me ("Itoge") is a Japanese-American and thus familiar with the nuances of relinquishment with respect to Japanese nationality! I can't believe my luck!

"When's the earliest I can make an appointment?"  
"Anytime next week is fine."

She asks why don't I just do it in Tokyo. I sort of fib. "I travel a lot [true] and I've been having trouble getting a date that works for both the embassy and me. [also true]." I leave out the part about how I can't get a real human to email me or anybody to return my calls or messages. Don't want to sound negative when you're trying to get something done, you know?

After finishing explaining my situation, she said if I was to relinquish my nationality with one appointment, she would need to call the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and confirm they read me my "understanding of the ramifications and consequences." According to her, if they did that, then I could do it with just one appointment in Taiwan. I explain that because I'm flying in, I will not have flexibility with my date or the person I meet. No problem, she said. So I give her Oshima's name, and she promises to call me back the next week to confirm a date. I'm about ready to use my smart phone and book a flight to Taipei that day.

The day before I'm supposed to receive a call from Itoge from the AIT, Oshima actually calls me on my phone (a first).

"I've set up an appointment with our consular officer for you the next week. All your paperwork is in order. You don't need to do anything more except show up. And this will be your last time you need to come to the embassy."

I'm not sure if Itoge from AIT calling Oshima had anything to do with the 180° turnaround in the service and response level I received from the U.S. embassy in Tokyo — if she even did call her. I like to think it did, rather than chalk it up to coincidence.

Anyway, from here onward the relinquishment process would go real smooth, with the best professionalism and competence being displayed by the actual consul officer in

(Please note procedures can vary by location and can change over time)

Tokyo.

However, if I were to do the process from scratch again, or if you're in a position to "shop" for an diplomatic post to renounce/relinquish your U.S. citizenship, you could do worse than the [AIT in Taipei](#).

#### **PART 4 of 4**

My final appointment with the U.S. embassy was with the consul Edward C. Burleson. Compared to everybody else I had dealt with up to that point, he was the most polite, most professional, quick, and to-the-point. I [looked him up on the web](#) afterwards and was impressed with [his resume](#). Like me, he was an alumni of the [JET Programme](#). He had spent a lot of [time in Ishinomaki volunteering](#) after the (3.11 earthquake & tsunami disaster), which increased my respect for him.

During the procedure, he was politically correct almost to a fault. He gave me the option of doing the final process in Japanese, asking me if I spoke English — he knew full well, despite the color of my skin, that I could based on my personal background which was printed in front of him, showing me to have lived from birth to 22 years of age in the United States. I figured my last official act as an American should be in English, so I opted for <sup>Eigo</sup> 英語.

Like the rest of my U.S. Embassy in Tokyo visits, I spoke to Ed through bulletproof glass in a public room with other people. Behind him and the glass was an American flag. He asked me to raise my right hand and swear that everything I had submitted and will say is truthful and correct. That's the closest I got to an "oath". A renunciation ceremony is not necessary if you're relinquishing your citizenship.

He presented me with a completed [CLN \(DS-4083\)](#) and questionnaire that would be sent to the State Department. My handwritten responses were replaced with typewritten ones, and some of my responses (such as the expatriating act) were replaced with stock set phrases. In particular, the "action causing expatriation" was replaced with the stock canned phrase:

acquired Japanese nationality by naturalization on *Month Date, Year* with the intent of relinquishing his U.S. citizenship.

And the "evidence of such actions" was replaced with:

DS-4079 and subject's Japanese Family Register

He asked me to confirm if the newly typed version was correct and to sign both the DS-4079 and the CLN and asked for my passport book and card. He told me it would take many months before I received the CLN and cancelled passports back in the mail.

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Interestingly, nobody mentioned or asked me for the [CLN Personal Info Sheet](#) (which asked me for my SSN and dates in the United States) which was [given to me during my prior visit](#).

In the meantime, if I needed to travel to the U.S. while my U.S. passport was being processed in D.C., he proactively offered me a special letter — signed by him on embassy letterhead and embossed stamped — which said that my CLN was in progress and the Department of State was in possession of my U.S. passport. He said I might need this if a immigration officer asked why I was still technically a U.S. citizen traveling to the States but I did not have my U.S. passport. The document looked like this:

*Embassy of the United States of America*  
Tokyo, Japan  
Date: Month Day, Year

Mr. Name  
District-Block-Building Address Number  
Ward, Prefecture Postal Code  
Japan

Dear Mr. Last Name,

I am writing to inform you that the United States Embassy Tokyo, American Citizen Services, Passport Unit has accepted your signed and sworn oath renouncing/relinquishing your United States citizenship, which you made before me on Date, at which time you also surrendered your United States passport. We will send your file to the United States Department of State for approval. If your loss of nationality is approved, the Department will issue you a Certificate of Loss of Nationality once it has processed the paperwork accompanying your renunciation/relinquishment of United States citizenship. The process typically takes several months to complete.

We will inform you as soon as we receive the Certificate of Loss of Nationality from the Department of State.

Sincerely,  
Consulate Officer Signature  
Consul of United States of America

It would take me less than two months to receive my CLN and cancelled passport in the mail. The U.S. passport card had a corner cut.

In summary, my experience with doing the loss of nationality started off bad. So bad, that I was considering spending money to go to a different embassy known to have better service and more experience. However, the U.S. embassy in Tokyo experience got much better at the very end.

--- Eido, 2012.07

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Request: Nov 2011  
1st appointment: Dec 2011  
2nd appointment: Feb 2012  
CLN date: Mar 2012

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1. The CLN reason says "willfully committed and officially reported an expatriating act [swearing allegiance to another country's constitution/government] with the intention of losing citizenship" (paraphrasing, as I don't have it in front of me right now; I keep it in a safe place with other important papers like my will etc).
2. I was not charged \$450, it was free. And it's free for all people that do this as part of their Japanese naturalization process as the above is not considered to be "renouncing."
3. Japan is a country that requires the renunciation/abandonment/relinquishment of all other nationalities as a condition for naturalization. For Americans this must be done within two years after Japanese citizenship is approved.
4. The U.S. process is unique in this aspect (re Japanese naturalization) in that for most countries, you get rid of your previous nationalities just *before* to proceeding with acquiring Japanese nationality.
5. The first interview is basically a bunch of questions trying to determine if you know what you're doing, understand the ramifications (explaining all the things you won't be able to do anymore), making sure you're not being coerced or forced to do it, and being provided with the forms and paperwork (mostly printed from the state.gov website). The second interview was returning and reviewing the completed paperwork, passport, and swearing in front of a consular officer that the information is true etc.

One last thing: I did go to the embassy three times because the first time (interview "zero") was to explain what I was trying to do. To get into the U.S. Embassy at Tokyo for a non-emergency, you need to make an appointment using their online web form / appointment system. (no well published phone number).

So I clicked on/selected the closest thing: "passport services: other". When I got to the embassy for interview #0, they explained that not just anybody at the embassy can do this procedure, so I'd have to make a special appointment using a non-listed phone number that they provided me to find a date that the officer was available. The hardest part of losing my U.S. nationality was making these appointments, and the official is apparently a busy man and only has a few days a month that he's available.

The reason I had two and a half appointments, I believe, is because:

appointment #0 aka "request": talked to low level embassy employee ("visa/birth/marriage recorder". Not trained or authorized to do anything with renunciation etc.)

appointment #1: slightly higher level person, reading from a script, with a supervisor to his left helping and guiding him

final appointment #2: swearing and talking to and giving the paperwork directly to the foreign service officer for the U.S. Embassy at Tokyo.

--- Eido, 2012.05

**Consulate Report for**  
**Scandinavia (unspecified consulate)**  
(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

I renounced in August 2010 and received my CLN the following November, much sooner than I had expected. As apparently in most, this embassy required two visits. My first interview was actually in November 2009. The consul was respectful but seemed to have a hard time countenancing my reason. "Then go to another bank," he retorted when I told him one of the difficulties I'd been having. Despite my argument that I should have a right to renounce then and there (and what my lawyer suggested should be my position), he insisted on a two-month reflection period, so I wasn't able to get it done within the 2009 calendar year. I didn't get around to my second interview until the following August, in part because I figured it didn't make much difference when during the year I renounced--as long as it got done. There **was** typically only a three to four week waiting period for appointments.

Like a previous writer reported about her friend's experience, at this embassy there's an open reception area in the which everyone with consular-related issues sit and wait. I had the dubious pleasure of making the oath of renunciation at a window in this packed and quiet room where all these good people could hear every word. Otherwise, the experience went smoothly and the people at the embassy were polite and professional. I asked the consul how many others had renounced; he said they only get two or three a year. Whether the numbers have gone up since then, I'd be curious to know.

--- Brash, 2012.03

## **Consulate Report for Slovakia, Bratislava**

**(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)**

My first and second renunciation appointments were about two weeks apart at the Embassy in Bratislava during July of 2010. I scheduled my first appointment online under notary and other services. I showed up for my first appointment with all forms filled in. But they still made me come back a second time. It made me angry until I realized it was just part of the process. After the first appointment, I received an e-mail informing me of my second appointment.

The process was pretty straight forward. The first interview was very formal. I was asked a lot of questions about the reasons why I wanted to renounce. The second interview was actually pretty friendly and focused on trying to talk me out of renouncing.

I received my CLN in September of 2010. I paid the 450 USD when I received it. I also requested three notarized copies which cost 50 USD each.

It was a bittersweet experience. But I am glad I went through with it.

--- Rick Blaine, 2012.03

## Consulate Report for Sweden, Stockholm

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

I just wanted to finally add a short update to the Relinquishment and Renunciation Report. My first appointment was held in September 2012. I am still waiting for my second appointment. According to the embassy, "urgent cases" such as passport appointments and registrations of birth abroad take priority over renunciations/relinquishments. We are not allowed to book renunciation appointments through the embassy's online system. Instead we have to wait until the embassy contacts us with a date and time. I really hope that my second appointment will occur in 2012. It would be nice to have some closure.

--- Citizen of Europe, 2012, 11

A friend of ours renounced last December. In Stockholm, there is one large room where everybody sits in rows of chairs with Windows A and B on one side of the room and another window for visas on the other side of the room. There is no privacy. She was called up to Window B and asked to recite the oath of renunciation there in front of all the visa applicants. She did it, but she did notice all the visa applicants staring at her like she was from outer space. She could only smile knowingly. She still has not received her CLN.

-- Lisa , 2012.03



## Consulate Report for Switzerland, Bern

(As reported to the Isaac Brock Society - Liberty and Justice for all US Persons Abroad)

I called Bern on Friday and was scheduled an appointment for Tuesday due to a cancellation. I emailed in the questionnaire early Monday morning and got the dollars from my bank. At the embassy everyone was friendly and formal. I made an address correction on one of the forms and the whole thing was done in about an hour. I gave no reason for my decision and was not asked. While waiting, I listened to a possible Arab talking about his high educational qualifications, a young girl who needed change, and I attempted to help a Swiss-American whose bank account was being cancelled. He wanted to open up an account with another bank, but they were requesting a social security number which he didn't have, which is why he came to the embassy. He had never filed any tax returns, didn't know anything about FBAR and was told that it would take months for him to get a social security number. At the end, I was told that my documents were being sent to the Department of State for approval. Outside, people were wondering how long they had to wait to get a visa.

--- Swiss Pinoy 2012.10

As a Swiss National and (now former) US Citizen living in Switzerland, I made the decision to relinquish out of fear of losing my bank due to FATCA. That plus all the IRS confusion (I could cry just trying to figure out the forms and their language!)

I heard there was a 1.5 year waiting list in Bern for the process. I e-mailed the Embassy and received a reply immediately, including a copy of the Oath plus a Questionnaire, just like the one mentioned earlier in this thread. I called the Embassy the next day and to my extreme surprise they offered me an appointment for three weeks later. Apparently there are so many Swiss-US Citizens renouncing that they had to hire extra people!

The entire process took exactly one hour from arrival to leaving. I paid the 450 US Dollars/Swiss Francs and then I sat and waited for half an hour to be processed. The Consular was a very nice lady. When she read the renunciation, we both got a small lump in our throats and that was it. I asked her if it was hard for her and she said it was. She told me that she does four renunciations a day. The Swiss Embassy is causing a back log in Washington she told me. For those who are considering this process, be assured that it is simple. While it can be a little emotional, it is freeing at the same time.

A half hour wait in the waiting area for no apparent reason and then a very pleasant renouncing. No office, just a woman behind the counter. I recommend it to any American with dual citizenship living in Switzerland. From the things I read, it seems to be a potential nightmare with the Banks and Americans living in this country. Once FATCA starts, I can not imagine it will be any easier.

--- Jer33.3, 2012.09

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2012.12.06

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“It was extremely easy . Everybody was friendly and courteous, from the Security Men, to the Clerk that filled out a Form according to my Answers, the Cashier who took my Money and the Official who assured that I understood the Consequences . It took only a half Hour . From my Experience I would recommend the Embassy in Bern.

No, I do not need to go back, and they assured me that I will have the CLN within three Months . They gave me an Info Sheet and a Receipt for the CHF 450.- that I paid . They didn't say any Thing about the IRS and I will have to read up in my Paperwork about the last and final Tax Return.

Part of why it went so easily is probably that I filled out very carefully all the Forms that they sent me Weeks ago and mailed them back right away . So they were prepared.”

-- Lisa, 2012.09 (This is the report of her friend, forwarded to Brock by Lisa with her friend's permission)

Lisa also reports that her friend said it took 6 weeks to get the appointment.

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I renounced in October 2009 at the embassy in Bern, it was approved two weeks later, and I received my CLN in late January or early February 2010. I finally got around to filling out the 8854 by the end of the year.

The embassy staff in Bern were all very nice throughout the process, and it was the only thing I have ever gotten done for free by them!

--- Tom, 2012.04