1 2 3 4 5 6 7	SADMIRA RAMIC, ESQ. (15984) CHRISTOPHER M. PETERSON, ESQ. (13932) AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF NEVADA 4362 W. Cheyenne Ave. North Las Vegas, NV 89032 Telephone: (702) 366-1226 Facsimile: (702) 830-9205 Emails: ramic@aclunv.org     peterson@aclunv.org  Listing of counsel continued on the next page  UNITED STATES DIST	RICT COURT
8	DISTRICT OF N	EVADA
9 10	VICTOR KALID JACOBO RAMIREZ; EDGAR MICHEL GUEVARA ALCANTAR; on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated, et al.,	Case No.:
11	Plaintiffs-Petitioners,	
12	vs.	VERIFIED PETITION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
13	KRISTI NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of	AND CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
14	Homeland Security, in her official capacity; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY;	
15	PAMELA J BONDI, Attorney General of the United States, in her official capacity; TODD	
16	LYONS, Acting Director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in his official capacity; U.S.	
17	IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS	
18	ENFORCEMENT; JASON KNIGHT, Acting Field Office Director, EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR	
19	IMMIGRATION REVIEW; SIRCE OWEN, Acting Director for Executive Office of	
20	Immigration Review, in her official capacity; LAS VEGAS IMMIGRATION COURT; JOHN	
21	MATTOS, Warden, Nevada Southern Detention Facility, in his official capacity,	
22	Defendants-Respondents.	
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#### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. Over the last few months, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") and the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") have abruptly and unlawfully reversed decades of settled immigration practice in order to deny immigration bond hearings to potentially thousands of people in immigration proceedings nationwide, including to potentially hundreds of people in Nevada.
- 2. Specifically, DHS and DOJ are systemically misclassifying people arrested inside the United States. These people are generally subject to discretionary detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), which allows for release on bond and conditions during the pendency of immigration proceedings. However, DHS and DOJ are now misclassifying these people as being subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2), which applies to noncitizens seeking admission at the border and does not allow for release on bond. First announced by ICE in July 2025, this abrupt change in policy has since been enshrined in a precedential decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals ("BIA"), which is binding on all Immigration Courts and DHS officers. Matter of Yajure Hurtado, 29 I. &. N. Dec. 216 (B.I.A. 2025). This misclassification is contrary to decades of settled law and practice, and it is unlawfully premised solely upon the manner in which the person initially entered the country, including instances where the person has been living in the country for many years.
- 3. As of early September, this misclassification policy has been uniformly adopted by DHS and DOJ, and it is being applied to all civil immigration detainees and in all Immigration Courts, including people arrested, detained, and/or in immigration proceedings in Nevada.
- 4. As a result, DHS is currently arresting numerous people within Nevada and unlawfully detaining them in jails without any possibility of release and without any due process protections

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even though they are legally required to receive a bond hearing and are eligible for release on bond.

- 5. The unlawful actions of DHS and DOJ have resulted in an enormous proliferation of individual lawsuits to protect the rights of detained noncitizens. In those cases, federal judges in Nevada and elsewhere have overwhelmingly rejected the new interpretation by DHS and DOJ and are granting relief to petitioners unlawfully subject to mandatory detention. See, e.g., Maldonado Vasquez v. Feeley, No. 2:25-CV-01542-RFB-EJY, 2025 WL 2676082, at \*11–16 (D. Nev. Sept. 17, 2025); Sanchez Roman v. Noem, No. 2:25-CV-01684-RFB-EJY, 2025 WL 2710211, at \*6 (D. Nev. Sept. 23, 2025); Carlos v. Noem, No. 2:25-CV-01900-RFB-EJY, 2025 WL 2896156, at \*5 (D. Nev. Oct. 10, 2025); E.C. v. Noem, No. 2:25-CV-01789-RFB-BNW, 2025 WL 2916264, at \*8 (D. Nev. Oct. 14, 2025); see also Herrera v. Knight, No. 2:25-CV-01366-RFB-DJA, 2025 WL 2581792, at \*7 n.5 (D. Nev. Sept. 5, 2025) (noting the "decisions of federal district courts within the Ninth Circuit and across the country that have thus far considered and rejected DHS' novel interpretation of sections § 1225 and § 1226"); Pablo Sequen v. Albarran, No. 25-CV-06487-PCP, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2935630, at \*8 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 15, 2025) ("District courts throughout this district and across the country have rejected that argument" that § 1225(b)(2) covers petitioners); Guerrero Orellana v. Moniz, No. 25-CV-12664-PBS, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2809996, at \*5 (D. Mass. Oct. 3, 2025) (collecting cases); Rodriguez Vazquez v. Bostock, No. 3:25-CV-05240-TMC, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2782499, at \*1 n.3 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 30, 2025) (same); Pizarro Reyes v. Raycraft, No. 25-12546, 2025 WL 2609425, at \*7 (E.D. Mich. Sept. 9, 2025) (same); Ventura Martinez v. Trump, No. 25-1445 (W.D. La. Oct. 22, 2025), ECF No. 17 at 5 n.1 (same).
- 6. Nevertheless, DHS and DOJ continue to subject people to mandatory detention in violation of their statutory, regulatory, and constitutional rights.

- 7. There has been a surge of immigration arrests in Nevada, and multiple habeas litigants have come before the district court seeking relief from this same unlawful interpretation.
  - 8. Petitioners-Plaintiffs ("Plaintiffs") are such litigants.
- 9. Each Plaintiff has lived here for years and even decades. They have extensive families and connections to the community in the United States, lengthy work histories, and no criminal convictions. Both Plaintiffs are now detained at the Nevada Southern Detention Center (NSDC) in Pahrump, Nevada, after being arrested by immigration officers inside the United States earlier this year.
- 10. Plaintiffs are charged with, *inter alia*, having entered the United States without inspection. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i).
- 11. Based on this allegation in Plaintiffs' removal proceedings, Defendants-Respondents ("Defendants") have denied each Plaintiff consideration for bond. Those denials were consistent with Defendants' policy of considering anyone alleged to be inadmissible under § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i)—i.e., those who entered the United States without inspection—to be subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and therefore ineligible for a bond hearing.
- 12. Many more habeas petitions are likely to follow if a class-wide resolution is not obtained. And many more people will be unable to access the Court, either because they lack the legal resources to present a claim, or because they will be quickly boarded onto vans and planes and sent to far-off locations before they have a chance to seek help.
- 13. Accordingly, Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated in an effort to prevent the government from unlawfully depriving them of liberty in violation of immigration laws and regulations, and without due process of law.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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14. Plaintiffs are in the physical custody of Defendants and are detained at the Nevada Southern Detention Facility in Pahrump, Nevada, within the jurisdiction of this Court.

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habeas statute); the INA, 8 U.S.C. §§ 1101-1538, and its implementing regulations; the APA, 5

15. This case arises under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question); 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (the federal

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U.S.C. §§ 500-596, 701-706; and the U.S. Constitution, including the Suspension Clause, U.S.

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Const., art. I, sec. 9.

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16. The Court may grant relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241; the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201; the APA, 5 U.S.C. §§ 702 & 706; the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651; Federal

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Rule of Civil Procedure 65; and the Court's inherent equitable powers.

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17. Venue properly lies within the District of Nevada under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) and (e), because this is a civil action in which Defendants are employees, officers, and agencies of the

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United States, Plaintiffs and members of the putative class are detained in this District, and a

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substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this action occurred in the District because

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Plaintiffs and members of the putative class have removal proceedings before the Las Vegas

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Immigration Court, which is in this District.

**PARTIES** 

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18. Plaintiff Victor Kalid Jacobo Ramirez is a 30-year-old man from Mexico who has resided in the United States for over two decades, since 2002. He is in removal proceedings before

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the Las Vegas Immigration Court and ICE has charged him with, inter alia, being inadmissible

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under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) as someone who allegedly entered the United States without

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inspection. He has not been considered by ICE for release on bond. Initially, the immigration judge

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in the Las Vegas Immigration Court granted him release on bond after finding he was not a flight

risk or danger, but his bond was revoked based on Matter of Hurtado. He was re-arrested when he

appeared for a scheduled check-in on October 7, 2025, and is back in DHS custody because of Defendants' new policy.

- 19. **Plaintiff Edgar Michel Guevara Alcantar** is a 27-year-old man from Mexico who has resided in the United States for nearly a decade, since March 2016. He is in removal proceedings before the Las Vegas Immigration Court and ICE has charged him with, *inter alia*, being inadmissible under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) as someone who allegedly entered the United States without inspection. He has not been considered by ICE for release on bond and has not had a bond hearing in Immigration Court because of Defendants' new policy.
- 20. **Defendant Kristi Noem** is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. She is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), and oversees ICE, which is responsible for Plaintiffs' detention. Defendant Noem has ultimate custodial authority over Plaintiffs and is sued in her official capacity.
- 21. **Defendant Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** is the federal agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA, including the detention and removal of noncitizens. Defendant DHS is a legal custodian of Plaintiffs.
- 22. **Defendant Pamela Bondi** is the Attorney General of the United States and administers the Department of Justice, including EOIR, the BIA, and the Immigration Courts. Defendant Bondi is sued in her official capacity.
- 23. **Defendant Todd Lyons** is the Acting Director and Senior Officer Performing the Duties of the Director of ICE. Defendant Lyons is responsible for ICE's policies, practices, and procedures, including those relating to the detention of immigrants during their removal procedures. Defendant Lyons is a legal custodian of Plaintiffs. Defendant Lyons is sued in his official capacity.

- 24. **Defendant ICE** is the subagency of DHS that is responsible for carrying out removal orders and overseeing immigration detention. Defendant ICE is a legal custodian of Plaintiffs.
- 25. **Defendant Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)** is the federal agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA in removal proceedings, including for custody redeterminations in bond hearings.
- 26. **Defendant Sirce Owen** is the Acting Director of EOIR and has ultimate responsibility for overseeing the operation of the immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals, including bond proceedings. Defendant Owen is sued in his official capacity.
- 27. **Defendant Jason Knight** is the Acting Director of the Salt Lake City Field Office of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations, a federal law enforcement agency within the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"). ERO is a directorate within ICE whose responsibilities include operating the immigration detention system. In his capacity as ICE ERO Salt Lake City, Acting Field Office Director, Defendant Knight exercises control over and is a custodian of immigration detainees held at NSDC. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendant Knight was acting within the scope and course of his employment with ICE. Defendant Knight is sued in his official capacity.
- 28. **Defendant John Mattos** is the Warden of NSDC which detains individuals suspected of civil immigration violations pursuant to a contract with ICE. Defendant Mattos exercises physical control over immigration detainees held at NSDC. Defendant Mattos is sued in his official capacity.
- 29. **Defendant Las Vegas Immigration Court** is the adjudicatory body within EOIR with jurisdiction over the removal and bond cases of the class members.

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#### **LEGAL BACKGROUND**

Page 9 of 24

- 30. "In our society liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception." *United States v. Salerno*, 481 U.S. 739, 755 (1987).
- 31. This fundamental principle of our free society is enshrined in the Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause, which specifically forbids the Government to "deprive[]" any "person . . . of . . . liberty . . . without due process of law." U.S. Const. amend. V.
- 32. "[T]he Due Process Clause applies to all 'persons' within the United States, including aliens, whether their presence is lawful, unlawful, temporary, or permanent." *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001); *Shaughnessy v. United States ex rel. Mezei*, 345 U.S. 206, 212 (1953) ("[A]liens who have once passed through our gates, even illegally, may be expelled only after proceedings conforming to traditional standards of fairness encompassed in due process of law").
- 33. "Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty" protected by the Due Process Clause. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 678.
- 34. The Supreme Court, thus, "has repeatedly recognized that civil commitment for any purpose constitutes a significant deprivation of liberty that requires due process protection," including an individualized detention hearing. *Addington v. Texas*, 441 U.S. 418, 425 (1979) (collecting cases); *see also Salerno*, 481 U.S. at 755 (requiring individualized hearing and strong procedural protections for detention of people charged with federal crimes); *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S. 71, 81-83 (1992) (same for civil commitment for mental illness); *Kansas v. Hendricks*, 521 U.S. 346, 357 (1997) (same for commitment of sex offenders).
- 35. For decades, the immigration system has implemented this balance through a network of three mutually exclusive detention statutes.

36. First, individuals arrested inside the United States are generally placed into removal proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1229a, during which an Immigration Judge (an "IJ")—and later potentially the Board of Immigration Appeals (the "BIA") and a U.S. Court of Appeals—will decide whether or not the person should be deported. During these proceedings, a noncitizen may apply for various forms of relief from deportation, such as asylum, withholding of removal, cancellation of removal, and adjustment of status. The IJ usually holds a series of hearings to determine if the person is eligible for deportation and, even if so, whether to grant some form of relief from deportation. This process can take months or even years. While this process is ongoing, the individuals are generally subject to the detention authority of 8 U.S.C. § 1226. See Jennings, 583 U.S. at 288-89 (describing § 1226 detention as relating to people "inside the United States" and "present in the country"). Unless they have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of certain enumerated crimes, which would subject them to mandatory detention until their removal proceedings are concluded, see 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c), an individual detained under § 1226(a) can be released by ICE on bond or conditional parole. See 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)(1); 8 C.F.R. § 236.1(c)(8). If release is denied by ICE, the detainee is entitled to a custody redetermination (colloquially called a "bond hearing") before an IJ to decide whether they should be detained or released. See 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.19(a), 1236.1(d).

37. Second, the INA provides for mandatory detention of noncitizens subject to expedited removal under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1) and for other recent arrivals "seeking admission" referred to under § 1225(b)(2).

38. Third, if an individual completes their removal proceedings and all appeals, and is ordered removed, the person is subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1231 while the government attempts to remove them. That statute provides for 90 days of mandatory detention called the "removal"

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period," followed by discretionary detention within certain limits. See Zadvydas, 533 U.S. at 699-

700 (holding § 1231 detention may not continue if removal is not reasonably foreseeable).

without inspection).

39. This system—in which people arrested inside the United States are generally eligible for a bond hearing and release during immigration proceedings—has existed essentially in its current form since Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), Pub. L. No. 104-208, Div. C, § 3003, 110 Stat. 3009-546, 3009-585 to 3009-587 (codified at 8 U.S.C. § 1226). According to IIRIRA's legislative history, § 1226(a) was intended to "restate[] the [then-]current provisions in section 242(a)(1) regarding the authority of the Attorney General to arrest, detain, and release on bond an alien who is not lawfully in the United States." *See Rodriguez v. Bostock*, 779 F. Supp. 3d 1239, 1260 (W.D. Wash. 2025) (quoting H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, at 229 (1996)). It also reflected nearly a century of law in the United States of allowing people inside the country to seek release while the government decided whether or not to deport them. *See* 34 Stat. 904-05, § 20 (1907) (providing for release on bond for noncitizens alleged to have entered the United States unlawfully); 39 Stat. 874, 890-91, §§ 19, 20 (1917) (similar); 66 Stat. 163, §§ 241(a)(2), 242(a) (1952) (last codified at 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(1) (1994)) (providing for release on bond, including for noncitizens alleged to have entered the United States

40. This eligibility for a bond hearing and potential release has applied to people arrested in the United States, regardless of whether they initially entered the country with permission. Indeed, shortly after IIRIRA's enactment, the former Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR"), which houses the Immigration Courts and BIA, issued an interim rule to implement the statute that expressly stated: "Despite being applicants for admission, aliens who are present without having been admitted or paroled (formerly

referred to as aliens who entered without inspection) will be eligible for bond and bond redetermination." 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10323 (Mar. 6, 1997).

- 41. Thus, in the decades that followed, most people who entered without inspection and were thereafter arrested and placed in standard removal proceedings were considered for release on bond by DHS and also received bond hearings before an IJ, unless their criminal history rendered them ineligible. That practice was consistent with many more decades of prior practice, in which noncitizens who had entered the United States, even if without inspection, were entitled to a custody hearing before an IJ or other hearing officer. In contrast, those who were stopped at the border were only entitled to release on parole. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a) (1994); *see also* H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, pt. 1, at 229 (1996) (noting that § 1226(a) simply "restates" the detention authority previously found at § 1252(a)).
- 42. On July 8, 2025, DHS, "in coordination" with DOJ, adopted a policy misclassifying § 1226 detainees arrested inside the United States as mandatory detainees under § 1225(b)(2), solely because they initially entered the country without permission. Pursuant to the July 2025 Policy, DHS's representatives in the Immigration Courts began to request that Immigration Judges nationwide misclassify bond-eligible § 1226 detainees as mandatory § 1225(b)(2) detainees and refuse to conduct bond hearings on that basis. Some Immigration Judges agreed. As a result, numerous detainees were illegally denied bond hearings and sought relief in the federal courts.
- 43. On September 5, 2025, in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. &. N. Dec. 216 (B.I.A. 2025), the BIA issued a precedential decision that purports to require all Immigration Judges and DHS officers to misclassify people in this manner.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for Admission, https://www.aila.org/ice-memo-interim-guidance-regarding-detention-authority-for-applicationsfor-admission.

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44. Although Defendants' policies are new, multiple federal courts, including this Court, have already rejected the government's position as contrary to law. See, e.g., Maldonado Vazquez, 2025 WL 2676082, at \*13 ("the Court holds, consistent with the overwhelming majority of district courts in the Ninth Circuit and across the country that have thus far considered the issue, that § 1226, not § 1225, applies to Petitioner and others similarly situated."); Guerrero Orellana, 2025 WL 2809996, at \*4-9 (holding that § 1226(a) applied based on the statute's plain language, Congress's recent amendment to § 1226(c), the Supreme Court's decision in *Jennings*, and established agency practice); Pizarro Reyes, 2025 WL 2609425, at \*7 ("[T]he BIA's decision to pivot from three decades of consistent statutory interpretation and call for [petitioner's] detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A) is at odds with every District Court that has been confronted with the same question of statutory interpretation."); Mendoza Gutierrez v. Baltasar, No. 25-CV-2720-RMR, 2025 WL 2962908, at \*4 (D. Colo. Oct. 17, 2025) (noting the government "readily admit[s] that other district courts that have considered this same or similar issue 'have concluded that aliens who enter without inspection and then reside in the United States fall within the scope of Section 1226(a) rather than Section 1225(b)(2)(A)"). Most notably, on September 30, 2025, in a similar class action lawsuit, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington granted Plaintiffs' partial motion for summary judgment and declared, inter alia, that the class members are detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and are not subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). Rodriguez Vasquez, 2025 WL 2782499, at \*27. The Court further declared that the Tacoma Immigration Court's practice of denying bond to Bond Denial Class members on the basis of § 1225(b)(2) violates the Immigration and Nationality Act. *Id*.

45. Nevertheless, DHS and DOJ are continuing to systemically misclassify people and unlawfully deny them access to bond hearings and release on bond during the pendency of their immigration proceedings.

1 **PLAINTIFFS' FACTS** 2 Victor Kalid Jacobo Ramirez 3 46. Plaintiff Victor Kalid Jacobo Ramirez is a 30-year-old native of Mexico. 4 47. On information and belief, Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez entered the United States as a minor nearly 23 years ago, in the year 2002. 5 6 48. In 2012, Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez applied for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which 7 was approved, and he maintained that status until 2024. 8 49. Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez has been with his wife, Araceli Esparga, a U.S. citizen born in the 9 United States. They co-parent a six-year-old daughter who is also a U.S.-born citizen that Mr. 10 Jacobo-Ramirez has from a previous relationship. 11 50. Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez was arrested on August 17, 2025, in Las Vegas, Nevada, for driving 12 under the influence and other traffic offenses. 13 51. Following his arrest and being released on his own recognizance, Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez was 14 transferred to DHS custody on August 18, 2025. 15 52. Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez is currently in removal proceedings before the Las Vegas Immigration 16 Court pursuant 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. ICE has charged him with, inter alia, being inadmissible as 17 someone who alleged entered the United States without inspection. 53. On September 3, 2025, Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez appeared for a custody redetermination 18 hearing before Immigration Judge (IJ) Daniel J. Daugherty in Las Vegas, Nevada. In that hearing, 19 20 the IJ agreed that Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez posed no flight risk or danger and granted release on bond of \$7,500. 21 22 54. Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez subsequently paid his \$7,500 bond on September 5, 2025, and was released from DHS custody. 23 24

55. On that same day, September 5, 2025, the BIA decided Matter of Yajure Hurtado, which
led the DHS to file a motion to reconsider Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez's bond. Bound by Matter of Yajure
Hurtado, the IJ granted DHS's motion on October 3, 2025, and revoked Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez's
bond based on Defendants' policy of considering him subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. §
1225(b)(2).

56. Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez was re-arrested by DHS on October 7, 2025, when he appeared for a scheduled check-in. Mr. Jacobo-Ramirez has remained in detention in Pahrump, Nevada, since that date.

#### **Edgar Michel Guevara Alcantar**

- 57. Plaintiff Edgar Michel Guevara-Alcantar is a 27-year-old native of Mexico.
- 58. On information and belief, Mr. Guevara-Alcantar entered the United States as a minor more than nine years ago, on March 20, 2016.
- 59. On July 26, 2019, Mr. Guevara-Alcantar was a victim of battery with a deadly weapon which qualifies as a felonious assault for the purposes of obtaining a U-Visa.
- 60. On February 4, 2022, Mr. Guevara-Alcantar's U-Visa application was filed and received by USCIS. On December 13, 2023, USCIS found his application was bona fide and granted him deferred action.
- 61. Mr. Guevara-Alcantar has a four-year-old daughter, who is a U.S. citizen born in the United States.
- 62. On August 24, 2025, Mr. Guevara-Alcantar was arrested for battery domestic violence in Las Vegas, Nevada. However, the District Attorney declined to pursue the criminal charge.
- 63. Approximately two days after being arrested, Mr. Guevara-Alcantar was transferred to ICE custody and taken to NSDC in Pahrump, Nevada. He has been detained there since August 26, 2025.

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- 64. DHS placed Mr. Guevara-Alcantar in removal proceedings before the Las Vegas Immigration Court pursuant 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. ICE has charged him with, inter alia, being inadmissible as someone who alleged entered the United States without inspection.
  - 65. He has not had a bond hearing in Immigration Court because of Defendants' policies.

#### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- 66. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and all other persons who are similarly situated, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(2). A class action is proper because this action involves questions of law and fact common to the class; the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical; the claims of Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the class; Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class; and Defendants have acted on grounds that apply generally to the class, so that final declaratory relief is appropriate with respect to the class as a whole.
  - 67. Plaintiffs seek to represent a class comprised of the following:
    - All noncitizens in the U.S. without lawful status (1) who are or will be arrested or detained by ICE; (2) who are or will be in removal proceedings before an Immigration Court within the District of Nevada; (3) whom DHS alleges or will allege to have entered the United States without inspection or parole; (4) who are not or will not be subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. §§ 1226(c), 1225(b)(1), or 1231 at the time they are scheduled for or request a bond hearing; and (5) whose most recent arrest by ICE occurred inside the United States and not while arriving in the United States.
- 68. The class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Plaintiffs are not aware of the exact number of putative class members, as Defendants are uniquely positioned to identify such persons. Upon information and belief, there are presently hundreds of individuals detained with removal proceedings before the Las Vegas Immigration Court to whom the Defendants' no-bond policy applies. The class is also comprised of many future potential members, given the large numbers of persons residing in Nevada and neighboring states who

- 72. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the preceding
- 73. The mandatory detention provision in 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to Named Plaintiffs or the putative class members because they were present and residing in the U.S., have been placed under a § 1229a removal proceeding, and charged with inadmissibility pursuant to 8

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Carl Davis, et al., Tax Payments by Undocumented Immigrants, INSTITUTE ON TAXATION AND ECONOMIC POLICY, Appx. Table 5, available at https://itep.org/undocumentedimmigrants-taxes-2024/.

U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i). Simply, § 1225 does not apply to people like Named Plaintiffs who previously entered the country and have been present and residing in the U.S. prior to being detained and placed in removal proceedings by Defendants. Such noncitizens may only be detained pursuant to § 1226(a), unless (unlike Named Plaintiffs and the class members) they are subject to mandatory detention under § 1226(c), or have a final order and are thus subject to § 1231. And detention under § 1226(a) requires access to bond.

- 74. Nonetheless, DHS and DOJ have adopted a policy and practice of applying § 1225(b)(2) to Named Plaintiffs and class members.
- 75. The unlawful application of § 1225(b)(2) to Plaintiffs and class members unlawfully mandates their continued detention and violates the INA.

#### **COUNT II**

## Violation of Bond Regulations, 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1, 1236.1 & 1003.19 Unlawful Denial of Consideration for Release on Bond (On Behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class)

- 76. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the preceding paragraphs.
- 77. In 1997, after Congress amended the INA through IIRIRA, EOIR and then-Immigration and Naturalization Service issued an interim rule to interpret and apply the IIRIRA. Specifically, under the heading "Apprehension, Custody, and Detention of [Noncitizens]," the agencies explained that "[d]espite being applicants for admission, [noncitizens] who are present without having been admitted or paroled (formerly referred to as [noncitizens] who entered without inspection) will be eligible for bond and bond redetermination." 62 Fed. Reg. at 10323 (emphasis added). The agencies thus made clear that individuals who had entered without inspection were eligible for consideration for bond and bond hearings before IJs under 8 U.S.C. § 1226 and its implementing regulations.

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- 78. Nonetheless, DHS and the Department of Justice, including its subsidiary Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR"), have adopted a policy and practice of applying § 1225(b)(2) and its implementing regulations to Named Plaintiffs and class members.
- 79. The application of § 1225(b)(2) and its implementing regulations to Named Plaintiffs and class members unlawfully mandates their continued detention and violates 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1, 1236.1, and 1003.19.

#### **COUNT III**

### Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act Contrary to Law and Arbitrary and Capricious Agency Policy (On Behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class)

- 80. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the preceding paragraphs.
- 81. Under the APA, a court must "hold unlawful and set aside agency action" that is "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law," that is "contrary to constitutional right [or] power," or that is "in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations, or short of statutory right." 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A)-(C).
- 82. The mandatory detention provision at 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to all noncitizens residing in the United States who are subject to the grounds of inadmissibility. As relevant here, it does not apply to those who previously entered the country and have been residing in the United States prior to being apprehended and placed in removal proceedings by Defendants. Such noncitizens are detained under § 1226(a) and are eligible for release on bond, unless they are subject to § 1225(b)(1), § 1226(c), or § 1231.
- 83. Nonetheless, Defendants have a new policy and practice of applying mandatory detention pursuant to § 1225(b)(2) to Plaintiffs and the putative class members.
- 84. Defendants have failed to articulate reasoned explanations for their decisions, which represent changes in the agencies' policies and positions; have considered factors that Congress

1 did not intend to be considered; have entirely failed to consider important aspects of the problem; 2 and have offered explanations for their decisions that run counter to the evidence before the agencies. 3 4 85. Defendants' new policy is thus arbitrary and capricious. It also is not in accordance with the law, including the INA, its regulations, and the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and 5 thus violates the APA. See 5 U.S.C. § 706(2). 6 7 **COUNT IV Violation of Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause** 8 (On Behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class) 9 86. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the preceding 10 paragraphs. 11 87. The Fifth Amendment provides that "No person shall ... be deprived of life, liberty, or 12 property[] without due process of law." 13 88. "Freedom from imprisonment – from government custody, detention, or other forms of 14 physical restraint – lies at the heart of the liberty that Clause protects." Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001). 15 89. Moreover, "The Due Process Clause applies to all 'persons' within the United States, 16 17 including aliens, whether their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary, or permanent." Id. at 693. 18 90. Defendants' mandatory detention of Plaintiffs and the proposed class without 19 20 consideration for release on bond or access to a bond hearing violates their due process rights. 21 22 23

1	PRAYER FOR RELIEF				
2	Wherefore,				
3	A. Plaintiffs respectfully requests that this Court:				
4	1. Assume jurisdiction over this matter;				
5	2. Certify this case as a class action, and certify the class;				
6	3. Appoint Named Plaintiffs as the representative of the class;				
7	4. Appoint Undersigned counsel as Class Counsel pursuant to Federal Rule of Civ				
8	Procedure 23(g);				
9	B. As remedies for each of the causes of action asserted above, Named Plaintiffs and the				
10	putative class members request that this Court:				
11	1. Enjoin Defendants from transferring Named Plaintiffs outside the jurisdiction of the				
12	District of Nevada pending resolution of this case;				
13	2. Declare that Defendants' policy and practice of denying consideration for bond on the				
14	basis of § 1225(b)(2) to Named Plaintiffs and the class, violates the INA, its				
15	implementing regulations, the APA, and the Due Process Clause of the Fifth				
16	Amendment;				
17	3. Declare that Named Plaintiffs and class members are detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)				
18	and are not subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2);				
19	4. Issue a writ of habeas corpus requiring the Defendants to release Named Plaintiffs				
20	immediately, or grant them a bond hearing pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven				
21	days;				
22	5. Set aside application of Defendants' unlawful detention policy as to the class members				
23	pursuant to the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706(2), as contrary to law, arbitrary and capricious, and				
24	contrary to constitutional rights;				

1	6. Award attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), as			
2	amended, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), 5 U.S.C. § 504, and on any other basis justified under			
3	law; and			
4	7. Grant any other and further relief that this Court deems just and appropriate, including			
5	individual injunctions when requested as necessary to secure the rights of class			
6	members.			
7				
8	Dated: October 30, 2025.			
9				
10	AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES			
11	UNION OF NEVADA			
12	Sal Ro			
13	SADMIRA RAMIC (15984) CHRISTOPHER M. PETERSON (13932)			
14	4362 W. Cheyenne Ave. North Las Vegas, NV 89032			
15	Telephone: (702) 366-1226			
16	Facsimile: (702) 718-3213 Emails: ramic@aclunv.org			
17	peterson@aclunv.org			
18				
19	MICHAEL KAGAN (12318C)			
20	ANDREW ELKINS GABRIELA RIVERA DORADO			
21	Student Attorneys Practicing Under Nevada Supreme Court Rule 49.3			
22	UNLV IMMIGRATION CLINIC Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic			
23	William. S. Boyd School of Law			
24	University of Nevada, Las Vegas P.O. Box 71075 Las Vegas Nevada			
- '				

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Telephone: (702) 895-3000 Facsimile: (702) 895-2081 Email: Michael.Kagan@unlv.edu Email: elkina1@unlv.nevada.edu Email: doradoma@unlv.nevada.edu Michael K.T. Tan (CA SBN# 284869)* My Khanh Ngo (CA SBN# 317817)* AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION 425 California Street, Suite 700 San Francisco, CA 94104 (415) 343-0770 m.tan@aclu.org mngo@aclu.org  Counsel for Plaintiffs-Petitioners *Applications for admission pro hac vice forthcoming
11	Torthcoming
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1 **LOCAL RULE IA 11-5 STATEMENT** REGARDING LAW STUDENT APPEARANCE 2 3 Plaintiffs in this matter are co-represented by third-year law students who are certified student attorneys under Nevada Supreme Court Rule 49.3. They are students in the UNLV Immigration 4 5 Clinic, part of the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic at the William S. Boyd School of Law. 6 7 I am a member of the faculty at the William S. Boyd School of Law and Director of the UNLV 8 Immigration Clinic. I have been a licensed attorney since 2000, and I am the supervising attorney 9 of the student attorneys in this case. 10 11 I hereby certify that I have and will ensure full compliance with all requirements of LR IA 11-5 12 governing appearance by law students in this court. 13 14 /s/ Michael Kagan 15 Michael Kagan Nevada Bar. No. 12318C 16 **UNLV Immigration Clinic** 17 Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic University of Nevada, Las Vegas 18 P.O. Box 71075 Las Vegas, Nevada 89170 19 michael.kagan@unlv.edu Telephone: 702-895-3000 20 Facsimile: 702-895-2081 21 22 23 24

## Case 2:25-cv-02136CIVPCUTON 12 SHF142 10/30/25 Page 1 of 2

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS				
Jacobo-Ramirez, Victor K.			U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Noem, Kristi,				
Guevara-Alcantar, Edgar M.				Secretary, et al.			
<b>(b)</b> County of Residence of		LARK		County of Residence	of First Listed Defendar		
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				NOTE: IN LAND CO	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA		
				NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	Address, and Telephone Number	•)		Attorneys (If Known)			
See Attachment							
See Allacillient							
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in (	One Box Only)	II. CI	TIZENSHIP OF PR	RINCIPAL PART	TIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
1 U.S. Government	7 F-11 O			(For Diversity Cases Only)		and One Box for Defendant)  PTF DEF	
Plaintiff		3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		n of This State	TF DEF PTF D  1 Incorporated or Principal Place 4		
				_	of Busine	ess In This State	
× 2 U.S. Government	4 Diversity	(D :: 1: 110)	Citize	n of Another State		ed and Principal Place 5 5	
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenshi)	p of Parties in Item III)			of Busine	ess In Another State	
				n or Subject of a eign Country	3 Foreign Na	ation 6 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box On	lv)	101	· ·	Click here for: Natur	re of Suit Code Descriptions.	
CONTRACT		RTS	FO	RFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY		
110 Insurance 120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane	PERSONAL INJURY  365 Personal Injury -	62:	5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	422 Appeal 28 USC 1 423 Withdrawal	375 False Claims Act 376 Qui Tam (31 USC	
130 Miller Act	315 Airplane Product	Product Liability	69	Other	28 USC 157	3729(a))	
140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability  320 Assault, Libel &	367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical			INTELLECTUAI PROPERTY RIGH		
& Enforcement of Judgment	Slander	Personal Injury			820 Copyrights	430 Banks and Banking	
151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted	330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal			830 Patent 835 Patent - Abbrevia	450 Commerce 460 Deportation	
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of Veteran's Benefits  160 Stockholders' Suits	350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle	370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending		Fair Labor Standards Act	Act of 2016	(15 USC 1681 or 1692) 485 Telephone Consumer	
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	380 Other Personal	720	) Labor/Management	SOCIAL SECURIT	Protection Act	
195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	360 Other Personal Injury	Property Damage 385 Property Damage	H <sub>74</sub>	Relations  Railway Labor Act	861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923)	490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/	
	362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Product Liability	_	Family and Medical Leave Act	863 DIWC/DIWW (4	405(g)) Exchange	
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	790	Other Labor Litigation	864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g))	890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts	
210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure	440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus:  × 463 Alien Detainee	79	Employee Retirement	EEDED AL TAN CHI	893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information	
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	441 Voting 442 Employment	× 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate		Income Security Act	FEDERAL TAX SUI 870 Taxes (U.S. Plain		
240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability	443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence 530 General			or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party	896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure	
290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	535 Death Penalty		IMMIGRATION	26 USC 7609	Act/Review or Appeal of	
	Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	Other: 540 Mandamus & Other		2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration		Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of	
	Other	550 Civil Rights		Actions		State Statutes	
	448 Education	555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee -					
		Conditions of Confinement					
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	n One Box Only)	Commemon	<u> </u>		l		
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		tute under which you are			utes unless diversity):		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of car	.F.R. §§ 236.1, 1236.1 & 1	1003.19,	5 U.S.C. § 706(2)			
		the Fifth Amendment, Der	nial of Bo	and Consideration			
VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND: Yes No			DI	EMAND \$	CHECK YES	S only if demanded in complaint:	
			AND: Yes No				
	VIII. RELATED CASE(S)						
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE Hon. Richar	d F. Bou	lware	DOCKET NUMBI	ER 2:25-cv-01542-RFB-EJY	
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATTO	RNEY C	F RECORD			
Oct 30, 2025		Sal K					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY							
RECEIPT # AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MA	AG. JUDGE	

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- **(b)** County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

  United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

  Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- **IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
  - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

  Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

  Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- **VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related cases, if any. If there are related cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

## **ATTACHMENT**

RAMIC, SADMIRA PETERSON, CHRISTOPHER M. 4362 W. Cheyenne Ave. North Las Vegas, NV 89032 Telephone: (702) 366-1226

KAGAN, MICHAEL ELKINS, ANDREW RIVERA DORADO, GABRIELA University of Nevada, Las Vegas P.O. Box 71075 Las Vegas Nevada Telephone: (702) 895-3000