Philip James Smith, OSB No. 981032 philip@visaoregon.com Nicole Hope Nelson, OSB No. 97534 nicole@visaoregon.com NELSON | SMITH, LLP 1123 SW Yamhill St. Portland, Oregon 97205 Phone: 503-224-8600

Attorneys for Petitioner

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON **EUGENE DIVISION**

G-S-,

Petitioner,

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DREW BOSTOCK, Seattle Field Office Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Removal Operations ("ICE/ERO"); TODD LYONS, Acting Director of Immigration Customs Enforcement ("ICE"); U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT; KRISTI NOEM, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"); U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **HOMELAND** SECURITY;

Respondents.

Case No.:

6:25-cv-01087-AA

Agency No.: A



PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR AND MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING **ORDER** 

ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED

**Expedited Hearing Requested** 

#### MOTION AND MEMORANDUM OF LAW

Petitioner G-S- respectfully moves this Court for an emergency order preventing his detention and transfer in violation of his Constitutional right to Due Process.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Petitioner, G-S-, is an asylum seeker from India who is currently in removal proceedings under 8 USC § 1229a awaiting a hearing on his pending I-589 application for asylum.

Petitioner's application for asylum was filed with the Portland Immigration Court on December 4, 2024. Prior to Petitioner's detention at his voluntary check-in at the ICE office in Eugene, Oregon, on June 24, 2025, Petitioner had been released on an order of recognizance since his initial detention on June 12, 2024. Petitioner has complied with all check-in requirements, has submitted biometrics to DHS, and has no criminal arrests or charges. Petitioner was given no notice in advance of his detention, and ICE did not undertake any individualized determination of whether Petitioner is a flight risk or danger to the community.

Petitioner seeks an emergency order from this Court to halt his detention and transfer out of this district, or an order to return him to Oregon if he is in fact no longer in this district.

### II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner, G-S-, is a citizen of India who was detained by DHS customs and border patrol in upstate New York on June 12, 2024. Petitioner was released from custody the following day and scheduled for an immigration hearing in New York. On September 7, 2024, Petitioner informed the Immigration Court of his new address in Stayton, Oregon, and asked for venue of his removal proceedings to be changed to Portland, Oregon. On September 26, 2024,

venue was changed to Portland, Oregon. On December 4, 2024, Petitioner filed his asylum application *pro se* with the Immigration Court in Portland, Oregon.

On December 12, 2024, the Portland Immigration Court scheduled Petitioner for a hearing to be held on October 6, 2025. After Petitioner retained counsel to assist him with his application and to represent him in proceedings before the Immigration Court, the Immigration Court canceled Petitioner's scheduled hearing and ordered his attorney to submit written pleadings in his case. On June 3, 2025, written pleadings were filed with the Immigration Court and Petitioner is awaiting the scheduling of a hearing to adjudicate his pending asylum application.

On June 24, 2025, Petitioner went to the ICE office in Eugne, Oregon, for a routine check-in. At that time, Petitioner was detained with no explanation. Petitioner's attorney was contacted by a community member and told that Petitioner had been detained. Petitioner's attorney called the Eugene ICE office and left voice messages, but was unable to speak to Petitioner or an ICE employee.

## III. LEGAL STANDARDS

The standard for issuing a TRO is the same as the standard for issuing a preliminary injunction. See New Motor Vehicle Bd. of Cal. v. Orrin W. Fox Co., 434 U.S. 1345, 1347 n.2 (1977). A TRO is "an extraordinary remedy that may only be awarded upon a clear showing that the plaintiff is entitled to such relief." Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 24 (2008). "The proper legal standard for preliminary injunctive relief requires a party to demonstrate (1) 'that he is likely to succeed on the merits, (2) that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief, (3) that the balance of equities tips in his

favor, and (4) that an injunction is in the public interest." Stormans, Inc. v. Selecky, 586 F.3d 1109, 1127 (9th Cir. 2009) (citing Winter, 555 U.S. at 20).

As an alternative to this test, a preliminary injunction is appropriate if "serious questions going to the merits were raised and the balance of the hardships tips sharply in the plaintiff's favor," thereby allowing preservation of the status quo when complex legal questions require further inspection or deliberation. *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1134-35 (9th Cir. 2011).

#### IV. ARGUMENT

Petitioner's Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order should be granted because he will suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief, he is likely to succeed on the merits, and the balance of the equities and public interest weigh in favor of emergency relief.

# A. Petitioner will likely suffer irreparable harm if not granted preliminary relief

If this Court does not grant a temporary restraining order, Petitioner will be imminently transferred out of the state of Oregon, and if Petitioner has already been transferred, he is subject to being disappeared within the sprawling ICE detention system without the ability to communicate with his attorney and proceed with his asylum application.

Respondents' actions will cause irreparable harm to Petitioner by separating him from his attorney. See Arroyo v. United States Dep't of Homeland Sec., 2019 WL 2912848, at \*17 (C.D. Cal. June 20, 2019) (observing that ("a significant burden on the attorney-client relationship, without a showing of underlying prejudice to the removal proceedings, may be sufficient to establish a legal injury sufficient to justify injunctive relief"), citing Comm. of Cent. Am.

# 4 MOTION AND MEMORANDUM FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Refugees v. I.N.S., 795 F.2d 1434, 1439 (9th Cir.), amended on other grounds, 807 F.2d 769 (9th Cir. 1986); see also Escobar-Grijalva v. I.N.S., 206 F.3d 1331, 1335 (9th Cir.), amended on other grounds, 213 F.3d 1221 (9th Cir. 2000) ("Deprivation of the statutory right to counsel deprives [a noncitizen] asylum-seeker of the one hope she has to thread a labyrinth almost as impenetrable as the Internal Revenue Code.").

Respondents' actions will also violate Petitioner's constitutional right to due process. "It is well established that the deprivation of constitutional rights unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury." *Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d 976, 994 (9th Cir. 2017) (internal quotation omitted).

# B. Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his habeas petition

Petitioner requests habeas relief from this court on the grounds that Respondents' decision to detain him without notice and without an individualized determination of flight risk or danger to the community is (1) arbitrary and capricious and in violation of Respondents' own policies and (2) a violation of his procedural due process rights.

Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his claim under the Administrative Procedures Act. Under the APA, a court shall "hold unlawful and set aside agency action" that is arbitrary and capricious. 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A). An action is arbitrary and capricious if the agency "entirely failed to consider an important aspect of the problem, offered an explanation for its decision that runs counter to the evidence before the agency, or is so implausible that it could not be ascribed to a difference in view or the product of agency expertise." Nat'l Ass'n of Home Builders v. Defs. of Wildlife, 551 U.S. 644, 658 (2007) (quoting Motor Vehicle Mfrs. Ass'n of U.S., Inc. v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co., 463 U.S. 29, 43 (1983)). To survive an APA challenge, the agency must articulate "a satisfactory explanation" for its action, "including a

rational connection between the facts found and the choice made." Dep't of Com. v. New York, 139 S. Ct. 2551, 2569 (2019) (citation omitted).

Here, Petitioner has complied with all requirements of his release on recognizance, has appeared as required, has filed an application for asylum with the court, and has otherwise done everything expected of him. He is not a flight risk or danger to the community and Respondents have given no explanation for his detention.

# C. The balance of the equities and public interest tip sharply in favor of preliminary relief

Petitioner has established that "the balance of the equities tip in his favor and that an injunction is in the public interest" because he is a bona fide asylum seeker, he is not a flight risk, and he is not a danger to the community. See Winter, 555 U.S. at 20. When the federal government is a party, the balance of the equities and public interest factors merge. Drakes Bay Oyster Co. v. Jewell, 747 F.3d 1073 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing Nken v. Holder, 556 U.S. 418, 435 (2009)).

The merits of the due process violations that Petitioner has raised in his habeas petition further weight the public interest toward emergency relief. "Generally, public interest concerns are implicated when a constitutional right has been violated, because all citizens have a stake in upholding the Constitution." *Preminger v. Principi*, 422 F.3d 815, 826 (9th Cir. 2005); *see also Zepeda v. U.S. I.N.S.*, 753 F.2d 719, 727 (9th Cir. 1983) (concluding that "the INS cannot reasonably assert that it is harmed in any legally cognizable sense by being enjoined from constitutional violations"). In addition, "the public interest also benefits from a preliminary injunction that ensures that federal statutes are construed and implemented in a manner that

avoids serious constitutional questions." *Rodriguez v. Robbins*, 715 F.3d 1127, 1146 (9th Cir. 2013).

#### V. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests this Court grant his motion for temporary restraining order to release him from detention, block his transfer outside the district of Oregon, and maintain the status quo pending resolution of these proceedings.

Respectfully submitted this 25th day of June 2025.

<u>s/Philip Smith</u> Philip Smith, OSB No. 981032

NELSON | SMITH, LLP 1123 SW Yamhill Street Portland, Oregon 97205 Phone: 503-224-8600 philip@visaoregon.com