



RATKOWSKI LAW
UNCOMPROMISING ADVOCACY

First National Bank Building
332 Minnesota St. • Suite W1610
Saint Paul, MN 55101

VIA ECF

September 9, 2025

United States District Court
District of Minnesota
300 South Fourth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: *Bartu v. Bondi et al.*, 25-CV-03198-PJS-DTS

To the Court:

On September 7, 2025, the undersigned counsel received word from Petitioner, Mr. Roosevelt Bartu, Jr., that Sherburne County Jail correctional officers, on September 6, 2025, intentionally went snooping through Petitioner's legal documents without Petitioner's permission and over his explicit objections. The correctional officers informed Mr. Bartu that they were doing this because they did not trust him or his attorney and that there was nothing he could do about it.

The undersigned, immediately upon receiving such information, emailed the jail's Commander, Dave Isaias, along with ICE Detention Officer Richard Pyrd, the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, the Sherburne County Attorney's Office, and counsel for the federal Respondents. In that email, the undersigned demanded that all agents of Sherburne County and its jail stop inspecting Petitioner's legal documents. The email explained that the officers' conduct "sounds wildly inappropriate, made even more inappropriate by the fact that there is currently pending litigation against Sherburne County surrounding the conditions of custody, indicating an intent to surreptitiously gather privileged materials and work product to gain a litigation advantage. Cease and desist, now. Inform your officers to do the same." The undersigned also demanded "the preservation of all bodyworn cameras, audio recordings, and other recordings of the search incident from yesterday."

On September 8, 2025, the undersigned had a follow-up conversation with Petitioner. During that conversation, Petitioner noted that this incident occurred while Petitioner was being strip-searched and that he only discovered what was happening because he wondered what was taking so long in his cell and when he walked over to look, and despite a sergeant trying to block his view, one of the officers had Petitioner's legal paperwork in his hands and was actively reading

those documents. Petitioner saw the officer reading the document for 35-40 seconds. Petitioner yelled at the officer and asked him what he was doing and the officer got defensive. The correctional officer who performed the cell search and reviewed the legal paperwork was D. Musgjerd, #3321.

The undersigned brings this issue to the Court's attention because it implicates a number of issues, not the least of which is Petitioner's ability to confer with counsel and keep work product and privileged information safe pending litigation against Sherburne County while housed in Sherburne County by the very people he is suing and accusing of unconstitutionally punishing him. Petitioner has sought expedited processing. Petitioner has filed an emergency motion for a temporary restraining order, yet Petitioner is *still* in this situation.

The undersigned requests that something be done on Petitioner's temporary restraining order to address the housing situation at Sherburne County Jail as soon as possible. The undersigned wonders whether the Court should be issuing a new and separate Order to Show Cause to the local Respondent, Sheriff Joel Brott, to address what is happening at his jail, especially considering he refused to address the allegations in the first OSC. If the undersigned cannot protect his own communications and/or actual or potential work product with his client, who is alleging unconstitutional and punitive confinement, from the very people he makes such allegations against, then privilege becomes a farce and inmates lose all rights to meaningfully consult with counsel and participate in their own cases.

Respectfully Submitted,

RATKOWSKI LAW PLLC

/s/ Nico Ratkowski

Nico Ratkowski (Atty. No.: 0400413)
332 Minnesota Street, Suite W1610
Saint Paul, MN 55101
P: (651) 755-5150
E: nico@ratkowskilaw.com

Attorney for Petitioner