

1 TIMOTHY COURCHAINE

2 United States Attorney

3 District of Arizona

4 BROCK HEATHCOTTE

5 Assistant U.S. Attorney

6 Arizona State Bar No.014466

7 Two Renaissance Square

8 40 North Central Avenue, Suite 1800

9 Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4449

10 Telephone: (602) 514-7500

11 Facsimile: (602) 514-7760

12 Email: Brock.Heathcotte@usdoj.gov

13 *Attorneys for the Respondents*

14 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

15 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

16 Francisco Angel Roblero

17 No. CV-25-03038-PHX-KML (DMF)

18 Petitioner,

19 v.

20 John Cantu, et al.,

21 Respondents.

22 **RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR  
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS  
(DOC. 1) AND TO MOTION FOR  
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING  
ORDER AND PRELIMINARY  
INJUNCTION (DOC. 2)**

23 **INTRODUCTION**

24 Respondents, John E. Cantu, Field Office Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs  
25 Enforcement (“ICE”); Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director, ICE; Kristi Noem, Secretary of  
26 Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”); and Pamela Bondi, Attorney General of the  
27 United States (Respondents), by and through undersigned counsel, respond in opposition  
28 to Petitioner’s Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Doc. 1) and Motion for Temporary  
Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction (Doc. 2).

29 Petitioner Francisco Angel-Roblero (Petitioner) is under a final order of removal  
30 that is currently stayed by order of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals pending the issuance

1 of the mandate in his appeal. *See Roblero v. Bondi*, No. 24-6556, 2025 WL 2463743, at \*2  
2 n.1 (9th Cir. Aug. 27, 2025) (“The temporary stay of removal remains in place until the  
3 mandate issues. The motion for a stay of removal is otherwise denied.”) Petitioner has been  
4 in custody since March 28, 2025, was denied bond by an Immigration Judge who  
5 determined Petitioner to be a flight risk and is likely to be removed soon after the mandate  
6 issues.

7 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

8 **I. BACKGROUND.**

9 Petitioner Francisco Angel-Roblero (hereinafter referred to as Angel) is a citizen of  
10 Mexico, born on [REDACTED] 1984, in Siltepec, Chiapas, Mexico. *See Exhibit A,*  
11 Declaration of Deportation Officer Brandy Berghouse), ¶¶ 1, 5. On May 2, 2002, Angel  
12 entered the United States at or near Sasabe, Arizona, without being admitted or paroled by  
13 an Immigration Officer. *Id.* ¶ 6.

14 On December 7, 2004, Phoenix Police Department (“PPD”) officers encountered  
15 Angel during a vehicle stop for knowingly displaying a false license plate. Angel failed to  
16 provide a driver’s license. *Id.* ¶ 7. On August 25, 2006, the Phoenix Municipal Court found  
17 Angel guilty of knowingly displaying a false license plate, and failure to show a driver’s  
18 license (sentence unknown). *Id.* ¶ 8. On August 3, 2011, the PPD charged Angel with  
19 taking identity of another and forgery. *Id.* ¶ 9. On August 18, 2011, the Maricopa County  
20 Supreme Court found Angel guilty of taking identity of another, a felony, and sentenced  
21 him with one year probation. *Id.* ¶ 10.

22 On August 23, 2011, ICE officers assigned to 287(g) program, encountered Angel  
23 at the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (“MCSO”) at the Lower Buckeye Jail Facility.  
24 During an interview Angel admitted to entering the United States at or near Sasabe,  
25 Arizona, without being admitted or paroled by an immigration officer. On that same date,  
26 MCSO turned over custody of Angel to ICE officers at the ICE Field Office in Phoenix.  
27 Angel was issued a Notice to Appear, Form I-862, charging him with violating Section  
28 212(a)(6)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”), as a noncitizen present in

1 the United States without being admitted or paroled or who arrived in the United States at  
2 any time or place other than as designated by the Attorney General. On that same date, ICE  
3 transported Angel to the Florence Detention Center (“FDC”) in Florence, Arizona. *Id.* ¶  
4 11.

5 On August 24, 2011, ICE transferred Angel to the Eloy Detention Center (“EDC”)  
6 in Eloy, Arizona, for further processing. *Id.* ¶ 12. On September 19, 2011, an Immigration  
7 Judge (“IJ”) in Eloy conducted an initial hearing in Angel’s case. *Id.* ¶ 13. On October 21,  
8 2011, an IJ issued Angel a Voluntary Departure under Safeguards. On that same date, ICE  
9 witnessed Angel’s departure from the United States to Mexico. *Id.* ¶ 14.

10 On September 27, 2019, MCSO performed a traffic stop of Angel for suspected  
11 Driving Under the Influence (“DUI”). Upon further investigation, MCSO arrested Angel  
12 and charged him with DUI-Liquor/Drugs/Vapors/Combo and Extreme DUI. MCSO  
13 transported Angel to the Maricopa County Jail. On that same date, MCSO notified ICE  
14 officers that Angel was set to be released from their custody. ICE officers assigned to the  
15 Maricopa County Jail arrived and took custody of Angel. On that same date, MCSO turned  
16 over custody of Angel to ICE officers and issued him a Notice to Appear, Form I-862,  
17 charging him with violating Section 212(a)(6)(A)(i) of the INA, as a noncitizen present in  
18 the United States without being admitted or paroled or who arrived in the United States at  
19 any time or place other than as designated by the Attorney General. *Id.* ¶ 15.

20 On September 28, 2019, Angel was transported from the Phoenix Field Office to  
21 the FDC. *Id.* ¶ 16. On September 30, 2019, ICE transported Angel to EDC for further  
22 processing. *Id.* ¶ 17. On November 17, 2019, an IJ issued Angel a bond in the amount of  
23 \$25,000. *Id.* ¶ 18. On November 25, 2019, Angel bonded out of ICE custody. *Id.* ¶ 19. On  
24 January 15, 2020, the Phoenix Municipal Court found Angel guilty of the DUI-  
25 Liquor/Drugs/Vapors/Combo and Extreme DUI (sentence unknown). *Id.* ¶ 20.

26 On January 10, 2023, an IJ ordered Angel removed from the United States to  
27 Mexico. *Id.* ¶ 21. On February 2, 2023, Angel filed an appeal with the Board of  
28 Immigration Appeals (“BIA”). *Id.* ¶ 22. On September 27, 2024, the BIA dismissed

1 Angel's appeal. *Id.* ¶ 23. On October 25, 2024, Angel filed a Petition for Review with the  
2 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which automatically issued a stay of removal. *Id.* ¶ 24.

3 On February 12, 2025, Special Agents with Homeland Security Investigations along  
4 with the ICE Mobile Criminal Apprehension Team, encountered Angel during a  
5 surveillance operation, and arrested him. On that same date, ICE officers issued a Notice—  
6 Immigration Bond Cancelled, Form I-391, regarding Angel's immigration bond. ICE  
7 officers then transported Angel to the ICE Phoenix Field Office. *Id.* ¶ 25. On February 13,  
8 2025, ICE inadvertently removed Angel in spite of the stay of removal issued by the Ninth  
9 Circuit Court of Appeals. *Id.* ¶ 26.

10 On March 28, 2025, Angel presented himself at the San Luis Port of Entry in San  
11 Luis, Arizona, to be paroled into the United States. ICE officers from the Phoenix Field  
12 Office brought Angel into custody pending a decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of  
13 Appeals. *Id.* ¶ 27. On March 29, 2025, ICE officers transported Angel to the FDC for  
14 further processing. *Id.* ¶ 28. On March 30, 2025, ICE officers transferred Angel to the EDC.  
15 *Id.* ¶ 29. On July 7, 2025, an IJ denied Angel's request for bond due to Angel being a flight  
16 risk. *Id.* ¶ 30.

17 On August 27, 2025, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals denied Angel's petition for  
18 review of the BIA's decision. *Roblero v. Bondi*, No. 24-6556. The Ninth Circuit's  
19 temporary stay of removal remains in effect until the mandate issues. *Id.*

20 **II. THE HABEAS PETITION SHOULD BE DENIED.**

21 **A. Standard Governing Detention of Aliens with Final Removal Orders.**

22 The detention, release, and removal of aliens subject to a final order of removal is  
23 governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1231. Pursuant to § 1231(a)(1)(A), the Attorney General has 90  
24 days to remove an alien from the United States after an order of removal becomes final.  
25 The removal period begins on the latest of three events. As relevant to this case, “[i]f the  
26 removal order is judicially reviewed and if a court orders a stay of the removal of the alien,  
27 the date of the court's final order.” *Id.* § 1231(a)(1)(B)(ii). During this “removal period,”  
28 detention of the alien is mandatory. *Id.* § 1231(a)(2)(A). After the 90-day period, if the

1 alien has not been removed and remains in the United States, his detention may be  
2 continued, or he may be released under the supervision of the Attorney General. *Id.* §  
3 1231(a)(3) and (a)(6). ICE may detain an alien for a “reasonable time” necessary to  
4 effectuate the alien’s removal. *Id.* § 1231(a). However, indefinite detention is not  
5 authorized by the statute. *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 689 (2001).

6 In *Zadvydas*, the Supreme Court defined six months as a presumptively reasonable  
7 period of detention for aliens, like Petitioner, who are detained under section 1231(a). *See*  
8 *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 701-702. *Zadvydas* places the burden on the alien to show, after a  
9 detention period of six months, that there is “good reason to believe that there is no  
10 significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future.” *Id.* at 701. If the  
11 alien makes that showing, the Government must then introduce evidence to refute that  
12 assertion to keep the alien in custody. *See id.*; *see also* *Xi v. I.N.S.*, 298 F.3d 832, 839-40  
13 (9th Cir. 2002). The court must “ask whether the detention in question exceeds a period  
14 reasonably necessary to secure removal. It should measure reasonableness primarily in  
15 terms of the statute’s basic purpose, namely, assuring the alien’s presence at the moment  
16 of removal. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 699.

17 **B. Petitioner’s Detention is Lawful and Constitutionally Permitted.**

18 On January 10, 2023, an IJ ordered Petitioner removed from the United States to  
19 Mexico. On appeal, the BIA and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals both upheld the order  
20 of removal. The removal order is final. Petitioner claims his bond is still in force and effect,  
21 but it is not. On November 17, 2019, an IJ issued Petitioner a bond and on November 25,  
22 2019, he bonded out of ICE custody. Thereafter, he was ordered removed, and his bond  
23 was cancelled. Petitioner went back before an IJ in July 2025, and his request for bond was  
24 denied. When the IJ ordered Petitioner removed, it was a significant change in his  
25 circumstances.

26 In *Zadvydas*, the Supreme Court designated six months as a presumptively  
27 reasonable period of time to allow the Government to remove an alien detained under 8  
28 U.S.C. § 1231(a), but an alien is not automatically entitled to release after six months of

1 detention. *Id.* at 701 (“This 6-month presumption, of course, does not mean that every alien  
2 not removed must be released after six months. To the contrary, an alien may be held in  
3 confinement until it has been determined that there is no significant likelihood of removal  
4 in the reasonably foreseeable future.”) (emphasis added). The passage of time alone is  
5 insufficient to establish that no significant likelihood of removal exists in the reasonably  
6 foreseeable future. *Lema v. I.N.S.*, 214 F. Supp. 2d 1116, 1118 (W.D. Wash. 2002). In  
7 *Lema*, where the alien had been detained for more than a year, the district court held that  
8 the passage of time was only the first step in the analysis, and that the alien must then  
9 provide good reason to believe that no significant likelihood of removal exists in the  
10 reasonably foreseeable future. *Id.*

11 Here, Petitioner has been detained under a final order of removal<sup>1</sup> since March 28,  
12 2025, but the 90-day removal period has not yet been triggered because Petitioner’s  
13 removal was stayed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which has not yet issued the  
14 mandate and terminated the stay.<sup>2</sup> Even if the removal period had been triggered, under  
15 *Zadvydas*, DHS would then have a presumptively reasonable additional six-month time  
16 period within which to remove Petitioner. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 701. Here, once the  
17 mandate issues, DHS will have 90-days to remove Petitioner, during which time his  
18 detention is mandatory, and then an additional six months before Petitioner’s detention  
19 could even be categorized as prolonged. Assuming the mandate issues around October 27,  
20 2025, the 90-day removal period will expire at the end of January 2026, and the earliest  
21 date that Petitioner could file a ripe habeas petition would be in July 2025. Petitioner’s  
22 habeas and motion for temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction are thus  
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26 <sup>1</sup> Petitioner’s removal order became final when the BIA affirmed the order on September  
27, 2024. 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(47)(b)(i).

27 <sup>2</sup> The Immigration Judge mistakenly treated Petitioner as if he was not under a final order  
28 of removal but denied bond anyway, finding that Petitioner was a flight risk. Exhibit A ¶  
30.

1 premature. Moreover, as soon as the Ninth Circuit's stay of the removal order expires,  
2 Petitioner will likely be removed.<sup>3</sup>

3 In *Zadvydas*, the Court emphasized that the "basic purpose" of immigration  
4 detention is "assuring the alien's presence at the moment of removal" and concluded this  
5 purpose was not served by the continued detention of aliens whose removal was not  
6 "reasonably foreseeable." *Id.* at 699. Removal was not reasonably foreseeable in *Zadvydas*  
7 because no country would accept the deportees or because the United States lacked an  
8 extradition treaty with their home countries. That is not the case here where there is no  
9 impediment to removing Petitioner to Mexico once the Ninth Circuit's temporary stay of  
10 removal expires. Similarly, in *Clark v. Martinez*, 543 U.S. 371, 386 (2005), an alien's  
11 removal to Cuba was not reasonably foreseeable when the Government conceded "that it  
12 is no longer even involved in repatriation negotiations with Cuba." *Id.* at 386. And in  
13 *Nadarajah v. Gonzales*, 443 F.3d 1069 (9th Cir. 2006), the Ninth Circuit relied on the  
14 apparent impossibility of removal in holding that an alien's continued detention was not  
15 authorized where the BIA had twice awarded the alien asylum, as well as protection under  
16 the Convention Against Torture ("CAT"), yet his detention continued for over five years  
17 while the Government appealed the decisions. *Id.* at 1081. The Ninth Circuit held that  
18 Nadarajah had successfully demonstrated that, as a result of the asylum and CAT  
19 determinations, there was a "powerful indication of the improbability of his foreseeable  
20 removal." *Id.* This case is distinguishable from *Zadvydas*, *Clark*, and *Nadarajah* because  
21 Petitioner's detention is not prolonged, and he is an alien whom the Government lawfully  
22 can remove and is in the process of removing.

23 Petitioner's habeas petition is premature, but even if it were not, Petitioner has failed  
24 to establish there is no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable  
25

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26 <sup>3</sup> The decision in *Roblero v. Bondi* was filed on August 27, 2025, and the Mandate will  
27 issue about 60 days after that, which is roughly October 27, 2025. The Ninth Circuit's  
28 decision was submitted on August 19, 2025, and Petitioner filed his Petition for Writ of  
Habeas Corpus and Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction  
on August 21, 2025.

1 future. And, the Government has established that there is a significant likelihood of  
2 removal in the reasonably foreseeable future. Uncertainty as to Petitioner's exact removal  
3 date does not warrant his release. *Prieto-Romero v. Clark*, 534 F.3d 1053, 1064 (9th Cir.  
4 2008). Petitioner's continued detention is not constitutionally indefinite as contemplated  
5 by *Zadvydas* and instead remains necessary to ensure his presence at the time of removal.  
6 *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 701. The habeas petition should be denied.

7 **C. The APA/Mandamus Claims Fall Outside the Core of Habeas Corpus  
8 And Thus the Court Lacks Habeas Jurisdiction Over This Claim.**

9 The habeas petition asserts two constitutional claims seeking release from custody  
10 and a third claim for mandamus alleging USCIS has not responded to Petitioner's  
11 application for a T nonimmigrant visa. In another habeas action that asserted a mandamus  
12 claim, this Court stated:

13 In *Pinson v. Carvajal*, the Ninth Circuit clarified the scope of claims that may  
14 be brought in habeas corpus proceedings. 69 F.4th 1059 (9th Cir. 2023). A  
15 claim sounds in habeas corpus only “if a successful petition demonstrates  
16 that the detention itself is without legal authorization.” *Id.* at 1070 (emphasis  
17 in original). “By contrast, claims that if successful would not necessarily lead  
18 to the invalidity of the custody are not at the core of habeas corpus,” and the  
19 court thus lacks jurisdiction to consider them. *Id.* at 1071. In determining  
whether a claim lies in habeas corpus, “the relevant question is whether,  
based on the allegations in the petition, release is *legally required*  
irrespective of the relief requested.” *Id.* at 1072 (emphasis in original).

20 *E.Q. v. Cantu, et al.*, No. CV-25-02442-PHX-KML (CDB), Doc. 20, “Order to Show  
21 Cause” at 1-2 (August 18, 2025). In that case, as in this one, the Petitioner only filed, and  
22 only paid for, a habeas petition, not a mandamus complaint.

23 Here, Petitioner's claims in the Third Cause of Action, and the prayer for  
24 mandamus, would not result in his release from immigration detention in the absence of  
25 other discretionary actions by USCIS. In this case, Petitioner submitted the T  
26 nonimmigrant visa application recently, on May 5, 2025. Now Petitioner asks this Court to  
27 determine whether USCIS has been following its policies without any reference to what  
28 kind of decision USCIS might produce, and what effect it would have on his current

1       detention. Petitioner complains that there has not yet been a Bona Fide  
2 Determination (“BFD”) of his claim. However, a favorable BFD would not necessarily  
3 lead to his release, it would only result in a temporary stay of removal. That is, release  
4 would not be legally required because under the regulations:

5 (i) The filing of an Application for T Nonimmigrant Status has no effect  
6 on DHS authority or discretion to execute a final order of removal,  
7 although the applicant may request an administrative stay of removal  
pursuant to 8 CFR 241.6(a).

8 (ii) If the applicant is in detention pending execution of the final order,  
9 the period of detention (under the standards of 8 CFR 241.4) reasonably  
10 necessary to bring about the applicant's removal will be extended during the period the stay is in effect.

11 (iii) If USCIS subsequently determines under the procedures in [8 C.F.R.  
12 § 214.205] that the application is bona fide, the final order of removal,  
13 deportation, or exclusion will be automatically stayed, and the stay will remain in effect until a final decision is made on the Application for T Nonimmigrant Status.

8 C.F.R. § 214.204(b)(2)(ii)-(iii).<sup>4</sup>

Nothing in the statutes or regulations governing T nonimmigrant visas requires that the applicant be released from immigration detention if the applicant receives a favorable BFD. Indeed, even a favorable BFD only results in the next step by USCIS, in its sole jurisdiction and discretion, to decide if it will approve the application. See 8 C.F.R. § 214.204(a).

This Court lacks jurisdiction over Petitioner's Third Cause of Action because it is not at the core of habeas corpus.

**D. Alternatively, the Third Cause of Action Fails to State a Claim.**

Plaintiff asserts that USCIS's failure to adjudicate his T nonimmigrant visa application violates his due process rights, particularly since he could be removed while his application is pending, creating a barrier to relief that violates his right to a meaningful process. However, the Ninth Circuit has rejected similar arguments, holding that

<sup>4</sup> Petitioner cites repeatedly to 8 C.F.R. § 214.11, but that section was superseded in 2024.

1 “procedural delays, such as routine processing delays, do not deprive aliens of a substantive  
2 liberty or property interest unless the aliens have a ‘legitimate claim of entitlement’ to have  
3 their applications adjudicated within a specified time.” *Ruiz-Diaz v. United States*, 703 F.3d  
4 483, 487 (9th Cir. 2012) (quoting *Bd. of Regents v. Roth*, 408 U.S. 564, 577 (1972)).

5 In *Ruiz-Diaz*, the Ninth Circuit considered a regulation that barred a category of  
6 aliens from filing applications for adjustment of status under 8 U.S.C. § 1255(a)  
7 concurrently with a visa petition from a sponsoring employer, which meant the aliens had  
8 to wait for approval of their employers’ petitions before they could seek adjustment of  
9 status. Because of the delays inherent in acquiring approval of a visa petition, aliens subject  
10 to this regulation could be deprived of relief if their visas expired before their adjustment  
11 applications were adjudicated. A group of aliens lawfully present in the United States on  
12 five-year visas brought suit against the government, asserting that the regulation, coupled  
13 with the processing delays, violated their due process rights. The Ninth Circuit  
14 acknowledged that the delays “often mean that their five-year visas have expired before”  
15 their applications could be considered, which “makes it more difficult for plaintiffs to  
16 obtain” the relief they sought. *Id.* at 487-88. Nonetheless, the Ninth Circuit held that the  
17 aliens could not claim that their due process rights were violated because they had not  
18 identified a “legitimate claim of entitlement” to have the petitions approved before their  
19 visas expire.” *Id.* at 487 (quoting *Roth*, 408 U.S. at 577); *see also Mudric v. Att'y Gen. of*  
20 *U.S.*, 469 F.3d 94, 99 (3d Cir. 2006) (holding that an eight-year delay in the processing of  
21 an alien’s application for asylum did not violate his due process rights “because [the alien]  
22 simply had no due process entitlement to the wholly discretionary benefits of which he and  
23 his mother were allegedly deprived, much less a constitutional right to have them doled out  
24 as quickly as he desired”). In the comparable U visa context, the Ninth Circuit determined  
25 that habeas petitioners with pending U visa petitions “do not identify any cognizable liberty  
26 interest in remaining in the country while their applications are pending.” *Velarde-Flores*  
27 *v. Whitaker*, 750 F. App’x 606, 607 (9th Cir. 2019).

28 Here, Plaintiff likewise lacks any legitimate claim of entitlement to having his

1 application adjudicated immediately before his removal. No statute or regulation requires  
2 USCIS to take action on Plaintiff's Application within a set period, so Plaintiff lacks a  
3 constitutionally protected interest in receiving a full adjudication within a certain period of  
4 time. *See Pulido v. Cuccinelli*, 497 F. Supp. 3d 79, 95 (D.S.C. 2020) (finding that plaintiffs  
5 had no due process right to receive a waitlist determination on their U visa petitions within  
6 a certain amount of time or in having their U visa petitions adjudicated within a certain  
7 timeframe). Therefore, USCIS's processing of Plaintiff's T nonimmigrant visa application  
8 in the normal course does not deprive Plaintiff of a substantial right. Plaintiff's due process  
9 claim alleged in the Third Cause of Action should be dismissed for failure to state a claim.

10 **III. A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION IS NOT WARRANTED.**

11 A "preliminary injunction is an extraordinary and drastic remedy." *Munaf v. Geran*,  
12 553 U.S. 674, 689-90 (2008). A district court should enter a preliminary injunction only  
13 "upon a clear showing that the [movant] is entitled to such relief." *Winter v. Natural*  
14 *Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 22 (2008). To obtain a preliminary injunction,  
15 the moving party must demonstrate (1) that it is likely to succeed on the merits of its claims;  
16 (2) that it is likely to suffer an irreparable injury in the absence of injunctive relief; (3) that  
17 the balance of equities tips in its favor; and (4) that the proposed injunction is in the public  
18 interest. *Id.* at 20. These factors are mandatory. As the Supreme Court has articulated, "[a]  
19 stay is not a matter of right, even if irreparable injury might otherwise result" but is instead  
20 an exercise of judicial discretion that depends on the particular circumstances of the case.  
21 *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418, 433 (2009) (quoting *Virginian R. Co. v. United States*, 272  
22 U.S. 658, 672 (1926)).

23 **A. Petitioner Cannot Establish a Likelihood of Success on the Merits.**

24 As established above, Petitioner is unlikely to succeed on the merits of his habeas  
25 petition where the 90-day removal period has not yet been triggered, and, in any event, he  
26 has been detained for less than the presumptively reasonable six-month period of time  
27 defined by the Supreme Court in *Zadvydas*. *See Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 701. Beyond that,  
28 Petitioner cannot meet his burden to establish that his removal is not likely to happen in

1 the reasonably foreseeable future when it seems relatively clear that he will be removed  
2 soon after the Ninth Circuit mandate issues. *Id.* For the reasons argued in full above,  
3 Petitioner is unlikely to succeed on his claim that his continued detention is unlawful under  
4 *Zadvydas* and therefore unlikely to succeed on the merits of his habeas petition. *Id.*

5 **B. Petitioner Cannot Establish Irreparable Harm.**

6 Petitioner “must demonstrate immediate threatened injury as a prerequisite to  
7 preliminary injunctive relief.” *Caribbean Marine Servs. Co. v. Baldridge*, 844 F.2d 668,  
8 674 (9th Cir. 1988). The “possibility” of injury is “too remote and speculative to constitute  
9 an irreparable injury meriting preliminary injunctive relief.” *Id.* “Subjective apprehensions  
10 and unsupported predictions . . . are not sufficient to satisfy a plaintiff’s burden of  
11 demonstrating an immediate threat of irreparable harm.” *Id.* at 675-76.

12 Petitioner’s entire argument mistakenly presumes he is not under a valid final  
13 removal order. *See, e.g.*, Doc. 2 at 6-7 (“[Petitioner] will suffer immediate and irreparable  
14 harm absent an order from this Court enjoining the government from continuing his  
15 unlawful custody and prohibiting the government to re-arrest him at any future time, unless  
16 and until he first receives a hearing before a neutral adjudicator.”) Petitioner’s fact-based  
17 argument for irreparable harm is a rehash of arguments rejected by the Immigration Judge,  
18 Board of Immigration Appeals, and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. *Roblero v. Bondi*, 2025  
19 WL 2463743, at \*1 (“Substantial evidence supports the IJ and BIA’s determination that  
20 Roblero did not demonstrate that his qualifying relatives would suffer exceptional and  
21 extremely unusual hardship if he were removed.”)

22 In any case, Petitioner’s confinement is neither illegal nor unconstitutional but  
23 rather necessary to assure his presence at the time of removal. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 701.  
24 Because his removal is significantly likely to occur in the reasonably foreseeable future,  
25 habeas relief should not be granted as he has not established any irreparable harm from his  
26 continued detention while the Government seeks to assure his presence and execute the  
27 valid final removal order.

28

1                   **C. The Public Interest and Balance of the Equities Favors the Government.**

2                   Where the Government is the opposing party, the balance of equities and public  
3                   interest factors merge. *Nken*, 556 U.S. at 435. Where the Government is the opposing  
4                   party, courts “cannot simply assume that ordinarily, the balance of hardships will weigh  
5                   heavily in the applicant’s favor.” *Id.* at 436 (citation and internal quotation marks omitted).  
6                   Here, the public interest weighs in favor of denying the motion for a preliminary injunction.  
7                   “Control over immigration is a sovereign prerogative.” *El Rescate Legal Servs., Inc. v.*  
8                   *Exec. Office of Immigration Review*, 959 F.2d 742, 750 (9th Cir. 1992). The public interest  
9                   lies in the Executive’s ability to enforce U.S. immigration laws and ensure presence of  
10                   removable aliens at the moment of removal. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 699.

11                   **D. The Court Should Require a Bond.**

12                   If the Court decides to grant relief, it should order a bond pursuant to Fed. R. Civ.  
13                   P. 65(c), which states “The court may issue a preliminary injunction or a temporary  
14                   restraining order only if the movant gives security in an amount that the court considers  
15                   proper to pay the costs and damages sustained by any party found to have been wrongfully  
16                   enjoined or restrained.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c) (emphasis added). Here, because Petitioner  
17                   is subject to removal, the amount of any bond should be akin to an appearance bond.

18                   **IV. CONCLUSION**

19                   For the reasons stated herein, Respondents ask the Court to deny the motion for  
20                   temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction and dismiss the habeas petition.

22                   RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED September 3, 2025.

23                   TIMOTHY COURCHAINE  
24                   United States Attorney  
25                   District of Arizona

26                   /s/ Brock Heathcotte  
27                   BROCK HEATHCOTTE  
28                   Assistant United States Attorney  
                  Attorneys for the United States