

No. 25-2970

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT**

J.J.T.S., ET AL.,

Plaintiffs-Appellees,

v.

LaDEON FRANCIS, ET AL.,

Defendants-Appellants.

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Northern District of Illinois, No. 25-cv-10428 (Pacold, J.)

APPELLANTS' DOCKETING STATEMENT

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Appellants' Docketing Statement

In accordance with Circuit Rules 3(c) and 28(a), Defendants-Appellants LaDeon Francis, Pamela Bondi, Kristi L. Noem, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Angie Salazar, Andrew Gradison, and Sandra Ceasar submit this Docketing Statement.

1. Statement of Jurisdiction for the United States District Court:

On August 30, 2025, the four child plaintiffs brought this action against defendants in the Northern District of Illinois for habeas and injunctive relief, challenging defendants' efforts to re-patriate and reunite them with their families in Guatemala. Dkt. 1. An amended complaint was filed the next day. Dkt. 10. The plaintiffs bring claims under the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act and the Immigration and Nationality Act. *Id.*

Plaintiffs also filed an emergency motion for a temporary restraining order. Dkt. 3. Minutes after the amended complaint was filed, the emergency district court judge held a telephonic hearing regarding the plaintiffs' motion for a temporary restraining order. The

district court ultimately granted a preliminary injunction on August 31, 2025. Dkt. 8, 10–13.

Plaintiffs invoked the district court’s jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question). *See* Dkt. 10 at 3.

2. Statement of Jurisdiction for the United States Court of Appeals:

The district court entered a preliminary injunction against defendants on August 31, 2025. Dkt. 11–13. The government filed a timely notice of appeal on October 29, 2025. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 4 (a)(1)(B); Dkt. 40. This court has jurisdiction over this appeal of the district court’s preliminary injunction order under 28 U.S.C. § 1292(a).

3. Prior or Related Appellate Proceedings:

There are no prior appellate proceedings that are relevant to this matter.

4. Prior Trial Proceedings:

No other litigation in the district court below is related to this matter.

5. Parties Appearing in an Official Capacity:

Defendant LaDeon Francis, Director of U.S. Immigration and

Customs Enforcement's Chicago Field Office; Pamela Bondi, Attorney General of the United States; Kristi L. Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security; Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary of Health and Human Services ("HHS"); Angie Salazar, Acting Director of the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement; Andrew Gradison, Acting Assistant Secretary of the HHS Administration for Children and Families; Sandra Ceasar, Office of Refugee Resettlement Federal Field Specialist Supervisor, are each appearing in their official capacities.

Respectfully submitted,

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