

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

OSCAR GEOVANNY CHAMBA ALVAREZ,)
on behalf of himself and others similarly situated,)
))
Petitioner-Plaintiff,)
))
v.)
))
WARDEN, Delaney Hall Detention Facility)
Newark, NJ;)
JOHN TSOUKARIS, Newark Field Office Director,)
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;)
TODD LYONS, Acting Director, U.S.)
Immigrations and Customs Enforcement;)
DAREN K. MARGOLIN, Director, Executive)
Office For Immigration Review;)
PAMELA BONDI, U.S. Attorney General;)
and KRISTI NOEM, U.S. Secretary)
of Homeland Security,)
))
Respondents-Defendants.)
_____)

Case No. _____

FIRST AMENDED PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

1. Over the last two 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 millions of people in immigration proceedings nationwide, including to potentially thousands of people in Massachusetts.

2. Specifically, DHS and DOJ are systemically misclassifying people arrested inside the United States. These people are generally subject to the detention provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1226, which usually allow for release on bond and conditions during the pendency of immigration proceedings. It has been this way for decades. DHS and DOJ are now misclassifying these people

as being subject to 8 U.S.C. § 1225, which does not allow for release on bond. This misclassification is contrary to almost 30 years of settled law and practice, and it is unlawfully premised solely upon the manner in which the person initially entered the country—in some cases, decades ago.

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 Massachusetts.

4. As a result, DHS is currently arresting numerous people within Massachusetts and unlawfully detaining them in jails without any possibility of release and without any due process protections 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, numerous federal judges in New Jersey and elsewhere have already ruled that DHS and DOJ are breaking the law. *See, e.g., See, e.g., Patel V. Tsoukaris* (2:25-Cv-16951), *Diana M. Rivera Zumba v. Pam Bondi*, 25-cv-14626 and others, *Hilario Rodriguez v. Moniz*, No. 25-12358 (D. Mass. Sept. 18, 2025) (Joun, J.); *Sampiao v. Hyde*, No. 25-11981, 2025 WL 2607924 (D. Mass. Sept. 9, 2025) (Kobick, J.); *Doe v. Moniz*, No. 25-12094, 2025 WL 2576819 (D. Mass. Sept. 5, 2025) (Talwani, J.); Order (D.E. 16), *Encarnacion v. Moniz*, No. 25-12237 (D. Mass. Sept. 5, 2025) (Sorokin, J.), *Romero v. Hyde*, No. 25-11631, 2025 WL 2403827 (D. Mass. Aug. 19, 2025) (Murphy, J.); *Diaz Martinez v. Hyde*, No. 25-11613, --- F. Supp. 3d , 2025 WL 2084238 (D. Mass. July 24, 2025) (Murphy, J.); *Gomes v. Hyde*, No. 1:25-CV 11571-JEK, 2025 WL 1869299 (D. Mass. July 7, 2025) (Kobick, J.); *see also Pizarro Reyes v. Raycraft*, No. 25-12546, 2025 WL 2609425, at *7 (E.D. Mich. Sept. 9, 2025) (collecting cases).

6. Nevertheless, DHS and DOJ continue to violate the law and detain people without due process in violation of their statutory, regulatory, and constitutional rights.

7. In recent days, there has been a surge of immigration arrests in New Jersey and nationwide, and dozens of habeas litigants have come before the district court seeking relief from this same unlawful interpretation. Many more people will be unable 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.

8. Accordingly, Petitioner-Plaintiff (“Petitioner”) brings this action on in an effort to prevent the government from unlawfully depriving him of liberty in violation of the law and without due process of law.

LEGAL BACKGROUND

9. “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).

10. 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.

11. “[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”).

12. “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.

13. 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).

14. For decades, the immigration system has implemented this balance through a network of three mutually exclusive detention statutes.

15. First, at the border, individuals “seeking admission” who are placed into removal proceedings are subject to detention without a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2).¹ *See Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 287 (2018) (describing § 1225 as relating to “borders and ports of entry”). These individuals may request release through humanitarian parole under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A).

16. Second, 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

¹ Separately, there is also a limited subset of individuals in and around the border who may be placed into the Expedited Removal process and are subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1). *See Make the Road N.Y. v. Noem*, No. 25-190, 2025 WL 2494908, at *23 (D.D.C. Aug. 29, 2025).

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”). Most of these individuals are eligible for release on bond and conditions under § 1226(a), and they are consequently 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). A bond hearing with strong procedural protections is not mere regulatory grace; it is the baseline Due Process requirement for § 1226 detainees. *See Hernandez-Lara v. Lyons*, 10 F.4th 19, 41 (1st Cir. 2021); *Doe v. Tompkins*, 11 F.4th 1, 2 (1st Cir. 2021); *Brito v. Garland*, 22 F.4th 240, 256-57 (1st Cir. 2021) (affirming class-wide declaratory judgment). The Supreme Court and First Circuit have recognized only one exception to this constitutional requirement for a bond hearing for § 1226 detainees: In 2003, in *Demore v. Kim*, the Court held that, under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c), there is a narrow category of people who can be held in mandatory detention for a brief period of time, if the person has conceded removability and has been convicted of certain crimes following all of the due process afforded by a criminal adjudication.² *See* 538 U.S. 510, 513 (2003).

² “Convictions” for immigration purposes includes both formal adjudications of guilt and certain factual admissions of guilt made during the judicial process, such as the Massachusetts procedure for admitting to sufficient facts in order to secure a continuance without a finding (“CWOFF”). *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(48)(A); *De Vega v. Gonzalez*, 503 F.3d 45, 48-49 (1st Cir. 2007).

17. 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 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).

18. 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 without inspection).

19. 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).

20. Thus, for almost 30 years, all participants in the immigration system have understood that people arrested inside the United States generally fall within § 1226 for detention purposes and are therefore required to receive a bond hearing upon request—even if they initially entered the country without permission. *See Martinez v. Hyde*, No. 25-11613, 2025 WL 2084238, at *4 n.9 (D. Mass. July 24, 2025) (citing the United States Solicitor General’s representation to the Supreme Court at oral argument that “DHS’s long-standing interpretation has been that 1226(a) applies to those who have crossed the border between ports of entry and are shortly thereafter apprehended”).

21. However, around late 2022, the Immigration Court in Tacoma, Washington began misclassifying § 1226 detainees arrested inside the United States as mandatory detainees under § 1225(b)(2), solely because they initially entered the country without permission. *See Rodriguez*, 779 F. Supp. 3d at 1244. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington ruled that this practice was likely illegal in April 2025 and ordered a bond hearing for a wrongfully detained litigant. *See id.* at 1263.

22. Nevertheless, three months later, on July 8, 2025, DHS, “in coordination” with DOJ, adopted the Tacoma Immigration Court’s unlawful practice nationwide.³ Pursuant to the July 2025

³ *See* Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for Admission, <https://www.aila.org/ice-memo-interim-guidance-regarding-detention-authority-for-applications-for-admission>.

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. Numerous courts—including many in the District of Massachusetts—rejected DHS's newly invented misclassification as illegal and ordered the detainees to receive a prompt bond hearing. *See Romero*, 2025 WL 2403827, at *1 (collecting cases).

23. As previously noted, the BIA and the Immigration Courts are entities within EOIR, which is part of DOJ. On September 5, 2025, in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (B.I.A. 2025) ("*Matter of Hurtado*"), the BIA issued a precedential decision that purports to require *all* Immigration Judges to misclassify people in this manner. Although the *Matter of Hurtado* decision is just two weeks old, multiple federal courts have already ruled that the BIA's decision is not entitled to any deference under *Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369, 412-13 (2024), and have rejected the BIA's decision as contrary to law. *See, e.g., Chogllo Chafra v. Scott*, No. 25-437, 2025 WL 2688541, at *7 (D. Me. Sept. 21, 2025) ("I find *Yajure Hurtado* to be unavailing"); Order (D.E. 22), *Hilario Rodriguez*, No. 25-12358, at 4 n.4; *Sampiao*, No. 25-11981, 2025 WL 2607924, at *8 n.11 ("[T]he Court disagrees with the BIA for the reasons given herein."); *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.").

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

PETITIONER'S FACTS

25. Petitioner Oscar Geovanny Chamba Alvarez resides in New York but was detained and transferred to NJ by the DHS/ICE. Although Petitioner's detention is authorized, if at all, by 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), which entitles him to a bond hearing, ICE is detaining him pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) and, under *Matter of Hurtado*, will not provide him a bond hearing, instead requiring him to be held in no-bond detention.

26. Mr. Chamba Alvarez has no criminal record. He has resided peacefully in the United States for more than two years.

27. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") and/or other federal agents acting on ICE's behalf arrested Mr. Chamba Alvarez in New York on or about October 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Petitioner appeared as instructed at the ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (DRO) office, located at Central Islip, NY (Sub-office Islip) for his standard reporting. During that appointment, Petitioner was suddenly taken into custody. The officer stated that Petitioner was detained under orders from his supervisor but did not provide a specific reason for Petitioner's arrest. When asked whether Petitioner had violated any laws or conditions, the officer confirmed that Petitioner had not committed any violation or criminal conduct.

28. Mr. Chamba Alvarez is currently being held in ICE's custody at Delaney Hall, Newark New Jersey pending full removal proceedings. On information and belief, Mr. Chamba Alvarez is eligible for relief from removal, including asylum and withholding of removal.

29. DHS has served Petitioner with a Notice to Appear alleging that he was not previously

admitted or paroled into the United States, and that he is present in the United States without immigration status.

30. As a person arrested inside the United States and held in civil immigration detention for pending removal proceedings, Petitioner is subject to detention, if at all, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226. *See, e.g., Romero*, 2025 WL 2403827, at *1, 8-13 (collecting cases). Petitioner lacks any criminal predicates that could subject him to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c) and is subject to detention, if at all, under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).

31. As a person detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), Petitioner must, upon his request, receive a bond hearing with strong procedural protections. *See Hernandez-Lara*, 10 F.4th at 41; *Doe*, 11 F.4th at 2; *Brito*, 22 F.4th at 256-57 (affirming class-wide declaratory judgment); 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1(d), 1003.19(a)-(f).

32. Petitioner requests such a bond hearing.

33. Under *Matter of Hurtado*, however, the responsible administrative agency has predetermined that Petitioner will be denied a bond hearing, and the government is holding Petitioner under the purported authority of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2), under which Petitioner will not receive a bond hearing.

JURISDICTION, VENUE, AND PARTIES

34. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (habeas corpus), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and Article I § 9, cl. 2 of the U.S. Constitution (Suspension Clause).

35. Venue is proper because Petitioner is detained in the District of New Jersey. Venue is also proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(2), (e). Petitioner is detained within this District, and a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims and relevant facts occurred within this District, including the detention of Petitioner without a bond hearing and the failure of the

Immigration Courts located in New Jersey to provide bond hearings to Petitioner and the class members. Respondent-Defendant (“Respondent”) John Tsoukaris is located in this District and possesses day-to-day authority over the custody of Petitioner in New Jersey.

36. Petitioner resides in New York and is presently detained by ICE at the Delaney Hall Detention Center.

37. Respondent “Warden” is the Warden of the Delaney Hall Detention Facility and is Petitioner’s immediate custodian.

38. Respondent John Tsoukaris is the Acting Newark, NJ Field Office Director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

39. Respondent Todd Lyons is the Acting Director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

40. Respondent Daren K. Margolin is the Director of EOIR and has ultimate responsibility for overseeing the operation of the immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals, including bond proceedings.

41. Respondent Pamela Bondi is the Attorney General of the United States and administers the Department of Justice, including EOIR, the BIA, and the Immigration Courts.

42. Respondent Kristi Noem is the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security and administers the Department of Homeland Security.

43. All respondents are named in their official capacities. One or more of the respondents is Petitioner’s immediate custodian.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT ONE

Violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and Associated Regulations

49. Petitioner may be detained, if at all, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).

50. Under § 1226(a) and its associated regulations, Petitioner is entitled to a bond hearing. *See* 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1(d), 1236.1, 1003.19(a)-(f).

51. Petitioner has not been, and will not be, provided with a bond hearing as required by law.

52. Petitioner's continuing detention is therefore unlawful.

COUNT TWO

**Violation of Fifth Amendment Right to Due Process
(Failure to Provide Bond Hearing Under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a))**

53. Because Petitioner is subject to detention, if at all, under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution requires that he receive a bond hearing with strong procedural protections. *See Hernandez-Lara*, 10 F.4th at 41; *Doe*, 11 F.4th at 2; *Brito*, 22 F.4th at 256-57.

54. Petitioner has not been, and will not be, provided with a bond hearing as required by law.

55. Petitioner's continuing detention is therefore unlawful.

COUNT THREE

**Violation of Fifth Amendment Right to Due Process
(Failure to Provide an Individualized Hearing for Domestic Civil Detention)**

44. The Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause specifically forbids the Government to "deprive[]" any "person . . . of . . . liberty . . . without due process of law." U.S. Const. amend.

V.

45. “[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*, 533 U.S. at 693; *cf. Dep’t of Homeland Sec. v. Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. 103, 139-40 (2020) (holding noncitizens’ due process rights were limited where the person was not residing in the United States, but rather had been arrested 25 yards into U.S. territory, apparently moments after he crossed the border while he was still “on the threshold”).

46. “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. 678 at (2001).

47. 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*, 441 U.S. at 425; *see also Salerno*, 481 U.S. at 755; *Foucha*, 504 U.S. at 81-83; *Hendricks*, 521 U.S. at 357.

48. Petitioner and will be held without being provided any individualized detention hearing.

49. Petitioner’s continuing detention is therefore unlawful, regardless of what statute might apply to purportedly authorize such detention.

COUNT FOUR
Violation of Fifth Amendment Right to Due Process
(Substantive Due Process)

53. Because Petitioner is not being provided a bond hearing, the government is not taking any steps to effectuate its substantive obligation to ensure that immigration detention bears a “reasonable relation” to the purposes of immigration detention (*i.e.*,

the prevention of flight and danger to the community during the pendency of removal proceedings) and is not impermissibly punitive. *See Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690; *Demore*, 538 U.S. at 532-33 (Kennedy, J., concurring).

54. Petitioner's detention is therefore unlawful, regardless of what statute might apply to purportedly authorize such detention.

COUNT FIVE
Violation of Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. § 706)

55. Petitioner is being detained without a bond hearing pursuant to the BIA's decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (B.I.A. 2025).

56. The BIA's decision in *Matter of Hurtado* is unlawful because it violates the Administrative Procedure Act, including because the BIA's decision is arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law.

57. Petitioner's detention is therefore unlawful.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Petitioner respectfully requests this Court to grant the following:

- (1) Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
- (2) Order that Petitioner shall not be transferred outside the District of New Jersey;
- (3) Declare that Petitioner's detention is unlawful;
- (4) Order Petitioner's release on conditions the Court deems just and proper pending adjudication of this petition;
- (5) Declare that the Petitioner is detained, if at all, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226, and is therefore entitled to a bond hearing upon request;

- (6) Postpone the effective date of *Matter of Hurtado* pending final resolution of this case under the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 705, and set aside and vacate *Matter of Hurtado* under the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706(2);
- (7) Issue a preliminary injunction and Writ of Habeas Corpus ordering Respondents to release Petitioner immediately, or, in the alternative, order Respondents to release Petitioner if he is not provided a bond hearing within seven (7) days after the Court's order;
- (8) Grant attorneys' fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) and 5 U.S.C. § 504 *et seq.* if applicable; and
- (9) Grant any further relief this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Peter Kapitonov
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Dated: 11/5/2025

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Dated: 11/5/2025

Dated: November 5, 2025.

*Motion for admission *pro hac vice* forthcoming

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing document will be served on counsel for all parties through the Court's CM/ECF system.

Date: 11/5/2025

/s/ Peter Kapitonov
Peter Kapitonov