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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHER DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

CARLOS MEJIA DIAZ,

Petitioner,

v.

Kristi NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of
Homeland Security; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY; Pamela BONDI,
U.S. Attorney General; EXECUTIVE OFFICE
FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW; SAMUEL
OLSON, Field Office Director,
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS
ENFORCEMENT,

Respondents.

Case No. 25-CV13881

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS**

1 INTRODUCTION

2 1. Petitioner, CARLOS MEJIA DIAZ (A [REDACTED]) is in the physical custody of
3 Respondents at the Broadview Detention Center in Broadview, Illinois. He now faces unlawful
4 detention because the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Executive Office of
5 Immigration Review (EOIR) have concluded Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention.

6 2. Petitioner is charged with, inter alia, having entered the United States without
7 inspection. 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i).

8 3. Based on this allegation in Petitioner’s removal proceeding, DHS denied
9 Petitioner release from immigration custody, consistent with a new DHS policy issued on July 8,
10 2025, instructing all Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) employees to consider anyone
11 inadmissible under § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i)—i.e., those who entered the United States without
12 inspection—to be an “applicant for admission” under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and therefore
13 subject to mandatory detention.

14 4. Petitioner’s detention on this basis violates the plain language of the Immigration
15 and Nationality Act. Section 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to individuals like Petitioner who
16 previously entered and are now residing in the United States. Instead, such individuals are
17 subject to a different statute, § 1226(a), that allows for release on conditional parole or bond.
18 That statute expressly applies to people who, like Petitioner, are charged as inadmissible for
19 having entered the United States without inspection.

20 5. Respondents’ new legal interpretation is plainly contrary to the statutory
21 framework and contrary to decades of agency practice applying § 1226(a) to people like
22 Petitioner.

1 6. Accordingly, Petitioner seeks a writ of habeas corpus requiring that he be released
2 unless Respondents provide a bond hearing under § 1226(a) within fourteen days.

3 **JURISDICTION**

4 7. Petitioner is in the physical custody of Respondents. Petitioner is detained at the
5 Broadview Detention Center in Broadview, Illinois.

6 8. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(5) (habeas corpus), 28
7 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and Article I, section 9, clause 2 of the United States
8 Constitution (the Suspension Clause).

9 9. This Court may grant relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, the Declaratory
10 Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 *et seq.*, and the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651.

11 **VENUE**

12 10. Pursuant to *Braden v. 30th Judicial Circuit Court of Kentucky*, 410 U.S. 484, 493-
13 500 (1973), venue lies in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the
14 judicial district in which Petitioner currently is detained.


15 11. Venue is also properly in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because
16 Respondents are employees, officers, and agencies of the United States, and because a
17 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the Northern
18 District of Illinois.

19 **REQUIREMENTS OF 28 U.S.C. § 2243**

20 12. The Court must grant the petition for writ of habeas corpus or order Respondents
21 to show cause “forthwith,” unless the petitioner is not entitled to relief. 28 U.S.C. § 2243. If an
22 order to show cause is issued, the Respondents must file a return “within three days unless for
23 good cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed.” *Id.*

1 13. Habeas corpus is “perhaps the most important writ known to the constitutional
2 law . . . affording as it does a *swift* and imperative remedy in all cases of illegal restraint or
3 confinement.” *Fay v. Noia*, 372 U.S. 391, 400 (1963) (emphasis added). “The application for the
4 writ usurps the attention and displaces the calendar of the judge or justice who entertains it and
5 receives prompt action from him within the four corners of the application.” *Yong v. I.N.S.*, 208
6 F.3d 1116, 1120 (9th Cir. 2000) (citation omitted).

7 **PARTIES**

8 14. Petitioner, CARLOS MEJIA DIAZ, born  is a citizen of
9 Honduras, who has been in immigration detention since November 9, 2025. After arresting
10 Petitioner in Indianapolis, Indiana, ICE did not set bond and Petitioner requested review of his
11 custody by an IJ. Petitioner has resided in the United States since 2001.

12 15. Respondent, SAMUEL OLSON, is the Chicago Field Office Director for
13 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the federal agency responsible for implementing and
14 enforcing the INA, including the detention and removal of noncitizens.

15 16. Respondent Kristi Noem is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland
16 Security. She is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Immigration and
17 Nationality Act (INA), and oversees ICE, which is responsible for Petitioner’s detention. Ms.
18 Noem has ultimate custodial authority over Petitioner and is sued in her official capacity.

19 17. Respondent Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the federal agency
20 responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA, including the detention and removal of
21 noncitizens.

22 18. Respondent Pamela Bondi is the Attorney General of the United States. She is
23 responsible for the Department of Justice, of which the Executive Office for Immigration Review
24

1 and the immigration court system it operates is a component agency. She is sued in her official
2 capacity.

3 **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

4 **REQUIREMENTS FOR DETENTION**

5 19. The INA prescribes three basic forms of detention for the vast majority of
6 noncitizens in removal proceedings.

7 20. First, 8 U.S.C. § 1226 authorizes the detention of noncitizens in standard removal
8 proceedings before an IJ. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. Individuals in § 1226(a) detention are generally
9 entitled to a bond hearing at the outset of their detention, *see* 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.19(a), 1236.1(d),
10 while noncitizens who have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of certain crimes are
11 subject to mandatory detention, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c).

12 21. Second, the INA provides for mandatory detention of noncitizens subject to
13 expedited removal under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1) and for other recent arrivals seeking admission
14 referred to under § 1225(b)(2).

15 22. Last, the INA also provides for detention of noncitizens who have been ordered
16 removed, including individuals in withholding-only proceedings, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)–(b).

17 23. This case concerns the detention provisions at §§ 1226(a) and 1225(b)(2).

18 24. The detention provisions at § 1226(a) and § 1225(b)(2) were enacted as part of the
19 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996, Pub. L. No.
20 104–208, Div. C, §§ 302–03, 110 Stat. 3009–546, 3009–582 to 3009–583, 3009–585. Section
21 1226(a) was most recently amended earlier this year by the Laken Riley Act, Pub. L. No. 119-1,
22 139 Stat. 3 (2025).

1 25. Following the enactment of the IIRIRA, EOIR drafted new regulations explaining
2 that, in general, people who entered the country without inspection were not considered detained
3 under § 1225 and that they were instead detained under § 1226(a). *See* Inspection and Expedited
4 Removal of Aliens; Detention and Removal of Aliens; Conduct of Removal Proceedings;
5 Asylum Procedures, 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10323 (Mar. 6, 1997).

6 26. Thus, in the decades that followed, most people who entered without inspection
7 and were placed in standard removal proceedings received bond hearings, unless their criminal
8 history rendered them ineligible. That practice was consistent with many more decades of prior
9 practice, in which noncitizens who were not deemed “arriving” were entitled to a custody
10 hearing before an IJ or other hearing officer. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a) (1994); *see also* H.R. Rep.
11 No. 104-469, pt. 1, at 229 (1996) (noting that § 1226(a) simply “restates” the detention authority
12 previously found at § 1252(a)).

13 27. On July 8, 2025, ICE, “in coordination with” DOJ, announced a new policy that
14 rejected well-established understanding of the statutory framework and reversed decades of
15 practice.

16 28. The new policy, entitled “Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for
17 Applicants for Admission,”¹ claims that all persons who entered the United States without
18 inspection shall now be deemed “applicants for admission” under 8 U.S.C. § 1225, and therefore
19 are subject to mandatory detention provision under § 1225(b)(2)(A). The policy applies
20 regardless of when a person is apprehended, and affects those who have resided in the United
21 States for months, years, and even decades.

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23
24 ¹ Available at <https://www.aila.org/library/ice-memo-interim-guidance-regarding-detention-authority-for-applicants-for-admission>.

1 29. In a May 22, 2025, unpublished decision from the Board of Immigration Appeals
2 (BIA), EOIR adopts this same position.² That decision holds that all noncitizens who entered the
3 United States without admission or parole are considered applicants for admission and are
4 ineligible for immigration judge bond hearings.

5 30. ICE and EOIR have adopted this position even though federal courts have
6 rejected this exact conclusion. For example, after IJs in the Tacoma, Washington, immigration
7 court stopped providing bond hearings for persons who entered the United States without
8 inspection and who have since resided here, the U.S. District Court in the Western District of
9 Washington found that such a reading of the INA is likely unlawful and that § 1226(a), not §
10 1225(b), applies to noncitizens who are not apprehended upon arrival to the United States.
11 *Rodriguez Vazquez v. Bostock*, --- F. Supp. 3d --- 2025 WL 1193850 (W.D. Wash. Apr. 24,
12 2025); *see also Gomes v. Hyde*, No. 1:25-CV-11571-JEK, 2025 WL 1869299, at *8 (D. Mass.
13 July 7, 2025) (granting habeas petition based on same conclusion).

14 31. DHS's and DOJ's interpretation defies the INA. As the *Rodriguez Vazquez* court
15 explained, the plain text of the statutory provisions demonstrates that § 1226(a), not § 1225(b),
16 applies to people like Petitioner.

17 32. Section 1226(a) applies by default to all persons "pending a decision on whether
18 the [noncitizen] is to be removed from the United States." These removal hearings are held under
19 § 1229a, to "decid[e] the inadmissibility or deportability of a[] [noncitizen]."

20 33. The text of § 1226 also explicitly applies to people charged as being inadmissible,
21 including those who entered without inspection. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E). Subparagraph
22 (E)'s reference to such people makes clear that, by default, such people are afforded a bond
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24 ² Available at <https://nwirp.org/our-work/impact-litigation/assets/vazquez/59-1%20ex%20A%20decision.pdf>.

1 hearing under subsection (a). As the *Rodriguez Vazquez* court explained, “[w]hen Congress
 2 creates “specific exceptions” to a statute’s applicability, it “proves” that absent those exceptions,
 3 the statute generally applies. *Rodriguez Vazquez*, 2025 WL 1193850, at *12 (citing *Shady Grove*
 4 *Orthopedic Assocs., P.A. v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 559 U.S. 393, 400 (2010)).

5 34. Section 1226 therefore leaves no doubt that it applies to people who face charges
 6 of being inadmissible to the United States, including those who are present without admission or
 7 parole.

8 35. By contrast, § 1225(b) applies to people arriving at U.S. ports of entry or who
 9 recently entered the United States. The statute’s entire framework is premised on inspections at
 10 the border of people who are “seeking admission” to the United States. 8 U.S.C.

11 § 1225(b)(2)(A). Indeed, the Supreme Court has explained that this mandatory detention scheme
 12 applies “at the Nation’s borders and ports of entry, where the Government must determine
 13 whether a[] [noncitizen] seeking to enter the country is admissible.” *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583
 14 U.S. 281, 287 (2018).

15 36. Accordingly, the mandatory detention provision of § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to
 16 people like Petitioner, who have already entered and were residing in the United States at the
 17 time they were apprehended.

18 **UNLAWFUL ARRESTS IN LIGHT OF CASTANON NAVA**

19 37. On October 7, 2025, this Court held that ICE’s practice of issuing Form I-200
 20 administrative warrants in the field to make arrests (i.e., “collateral arrests”) is unlawful,
 21 rendering all of those arrests warrantless. Accordingly, all of those are subject to the
 22 requirements of 8 U.S.C. § 1357(a)(2) and the Nava Warrantless Arrest Policy. *See Castanon*
 23 *Nava v. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, No. 1:18-cv-03757, 2025 WL 6324179 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 7, 2025).

1 38. Furthermore, this Court agreed that the regulations implementing DHS's arrest
2 authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226 require DHS to issue a Notice to Appear either before or
3 concurrently with the Form I-200 warrant when making a warrant-based arrest. 8 C.F.R. §§
4 236.1(b) and 1236.1(b). Absent the NTA, the administrative warrant is an invalid basis for arrest,
5 rendering the arrest warrantless.

6 39. *Nava* emphasizes that community ties (e.g., home, family, employment) weigh
7 against a finding of probable cause that the individual is likely to escape before a warrant could
8 be obtained. And a determination of probable cause can be based only on information known or
9 gathered at the time of arrest. The only consideration against release is the existence of a prior
10 removal order which may be sufficient to establish probable cause that a person would be likely
11 to escape before a warrant could be obtained under § 1357(a)(2).

12 40. Petitioner gave no indication that there was probable cause for escape prior to
13 obtaining a warrant at the time of their arrest. As such, their arrest without any warrant renders
14 their current and continued detention unlawful.

15 41. The *Nava* class is a Rule 23(b)(2) injunctive class, defined as: All current **and**
16 **future persons** arrested without a warrant for a civil violation of U.S. Immigration Law within
17 the ICE Chicago Field Office's Area of Responsibility. *Castañon Nava*, 2025 WL 2842146, at 9
18 (emphasis added). Because that class is already certified, membership is automatic for anyone
19 who meets the definition, and no separate judicial finding from this Court is required for class
20 membership. It remains in effect and continues to govern ICE's conduct within Illinois.

21 42. This Court need only review the extent that Petitioner's arrest mirrors those
22 already adjudicated in *Nava* to determine if his detention falls within the scope of that ongoing
23 injunctive relief. The remedy for this violation is prompt release or, if Petitioner is subsequently
24

1 released on bond and no longer in ICE custody, prompt reimbursement of all bond payment, and
2 all imposed conditions of release should be lifted. Castañon Nava, 2025 WL 2842146, at 42.

3 **FACTS**

4 43. Petitioner has resided in the United States since 2001 and lives in Indianapolis,
5 Indiana.

6 44. On November 9, 2025, Petitioner was arrested while driving his sister home in
7 Indianapolis, Indiana. Petitioner is now detained at the Broadview Detention Center.

8 45. DHS placed Petitioner in removal proceedings before the Chicago, Illinois
9 pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. ICE has charged Petitioner with, *inter alia*, being inadmissible
10 under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) as someone who entered the United States without inspection.

11 46. Petitioner is married to a Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States for over
12 10 years and has two United States citizen children and one lawful permanent resident daughter.
13 Petitioner has been gainfully employed and has developed communities ties during his many
14 years in the Chicagoland area. Petitioner is neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community.

15 47. Following Petitioner's arrest and transfer to the Broadview Detention facility, ICE
16 issued a custody determination to continue Petitioner's detention without an opportunity to post
17 bond or be released on other conditions.

18 48. Petitioner has been a bond redetermination hearing before an Immigration Judge.

19 49. As a result, Petitioner remains in detention. Without relief from this court, he
20 faces the prospect of months, or even years, in immigration custody, separated from their family
21 and community.

22 50. Any appeal to the BIA is futile. DHS's new policy was issued "in coordination
23 with DOJ," which oversees the immigration courts. Further, as noted, the most recent
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1 unpublished BIA decision on this issue held that persons like Petitioner are subject to mandatory
2 detention as applicants for admission. Finally, in the *Rodriguez Vazquez* litigation, where EOIR
3 and the Attorney General are defendants, DOJ has affirmed its position that individuals like
4 Petitioner are applicants for admission and subject to detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A). *See* Mot.
5 to Dismiss, *Rodriguez Vazquez v. Bostock*, No. 3:25-CV-05240-TMC (W.D. Wash. June 6,
6 2025), Dkt. 49 at 27–31.

7 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

8 **COUNT I**

9 **Violation of the Nava Settlement**

10 51. Petitioner repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference each and every
11 allegation in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

12 52. Pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226 DHS must issue a Notice to Appear either before or
13 concurrently with the Form I-200 warrant when making a warrant-based arrest. 8 C.F.R. 236.1(b)
14 and 1236.1(b). Absent the NTA, the administrative warrant is an invalid basis for arrest,
15 rendering the arrest warrantless. *Castanon Nava v. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, No. 1:18-cv-03757,
16 2025 WL 6324179 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 7, 2025).

17 53. Petitioner's arrest puts him automatically in the certified class eligible for relief.

18 54. This Court needs only to affirm the extent that Petitioner's arrest mirrors those
19 already adjudicated in *Nava*.

20 **Count II**

21 **Violation of the INA**

22 55. Petitioner incorporates by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the
23 preceding paragraphs.
24

1 56. The mandatory detention provision at 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to all
2 noncitizens residing in the United States who are subject to the grounds of inadmissibility. As
3 relevant here, it does not apply to those who previously entered the country and have been
4 residing in the United States prior to being apprehended and placed in removal proceedings by
5 Respondents. Such noncitizens are detained under § 1226(a), unless they are subject to
6 § 1225(b)(1), § 1226(c), or § 1231.

7 57. The application of § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued
8 detention and violates the INA.

9
10 **COUNT III**
Violation of Due Process

11 58. Petitioner repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference each and every
12 allegation in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

13 59. The government may not deprive a person of life, liberty, or property without due
14 process of law. U.S. Const. amend. V. “Freedom from imprisonment—from government
15 custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that the
16 Clause protects.” *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690, 121 S.Ct. 2491, 150 L.Ed.2d 653
17 (2001).

18 60. Petitioner has a fundamental interest in liberty and being free from official
19 restraint.

20 61. The government’s detention of Petitioner without a bond redetermination hearing
21 to determine whether he is a flight risk or danger to others violates his right to due process.

22 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

23 WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that this Court grant the following relief:
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- 1 a. Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
- 2 b. Issue a writ of habeas corpus requiring Respondents promptly release or, if
3 Petitioner is already released on bond and no longer in ICE custody, prompt
4 reimbursement of all bond payment, and lift all imposed conditions of release;
- 5 c. Alternatively, issue a writ of habeas corpus requiring that Respondents release or
6 provide Petitioner with a bond hearing pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within 5
7 days and enjoin Respondents from denying bond under 8 U.S.C. § 1225;
- 8 d. Award Petitioner attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act
9 ("EAJA"), as amended, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and on any other basis justified under
10 law;
- 11 e. Issue a limiting order barring Respondents from re-detaining Petitioner during the
12 pendency of his immigration proceedings absent a substantial change in
13 circumstances; and
- 14 f. Grant any other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.

15
16 Dated: November 5, 2025

Respectfully Submitted by:

17 /s/ William A. Quiceno

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19 Calvo, Ltd.

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