

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

MANINDER SINGH,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. CIV-26-43-J
)	
PAMELA BONDI, et al.,)	
)	
Respondents.)	

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Petitioner Maninder Singh, a citizen of India proceeding with counsel, filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (“Petition”) challenging his detention by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”).¹ (Doc. 1).² United States District Judge Bernard M. Jones, II referred the matter to the undersigned Magistrate Judge for initial proceedings consistent with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B), (C). (Doc. 3). In accordance with the briefing schedule, (Doc. 8), Respondents timely filed a response.³ (Doc. 10). Petitioner timely filed a reply. (Doc. 11). As fully set forth below, the

¹ Petitioner is housed at Cimarron Correctional Facility in Cushing, Oklahoma. (Doc. 1, at 5).

² Citations to the parties’ filings and attached exhibits will refer to this Court’s CM/ECF pagination.

³ The response was not filed on behalf of Respondent Scarlet Grant, Warden of the Cimarron Correctional Facility, because she is not a federal official. (Doc. 10, at 11 n.1). The undersigned concludes that a separate response from Warden Grant is not necessary to resolve this matter.

undersigned recommends that the Court **GRANT** the Petition in part and order Respondents to **release Petitioner immediately**.

I. Introduction

This action turns on one question: can Petitioner – an alien who has not been admitted or inspected, but has lived in the United States for over three years – be classified as an alien who is an “applicant for admission” and “seeking admission” under 8 U.S.C. § 1225 or must he instead be classified as an alien under 8 U.S.C. § 1226? The answer to this question directly affects Petitioner’s detention, as the parties agree that he is subject to mandatory detention if he is classified as an applicant for admission under § 1225 and that he is, at least, entitled to a bond hearing if he is classified as an alien under § 1226.

While the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”) is not new, this question is newly before federal courts across the country because of a change in interpretation by the executive branch. For many years, Immigration Judges provided bond hearings for detained aliens who had entered the country without inspection. *See Jonathan Javier Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216, 225 n.6 (BIA 2025) (“*Hurtado*”). But on September 5, 2025, the Board of Immigration Appeals (“BIA”) determined that an immigration judge does not have authority to hear a request for bond by an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted after inspection because the alien was “subject to mandatory detention” under § 1225. *Id.* at 229. This change in procedure has led to a nationwide influx of habeas corpus petitions seeking bond hearings for aliens who were recently detained after living for years in the United States without inspection.

II. Background

Petitioner alleges that he entered the United States without inspection or parole on March 8, 2022. (Doc. 1, at 2; Doc. 10, at 17-18). Soon after, ICE instituted removal proceedings against Petitioner, alleging he was an alien present in the United States who had not been admitted or paroled.⁴ (Doc. 10, at Ex. 1, at 1). Petitioner was released from custody after paying a \$3,000 bond, “[p]ursuant to the authority contained in [§ 1226],” on March 15, 2022. (Doc. 1, at Ex. 1, at 1). During his removal proceedings, Petitioner filed a Form I-589 asylum application, seeking lawful residence in the United States. (*See* Doc. 10, at Ex. 2).

Petitioner was re-apprehended by ICE on or around December 4, 2025. (Doc. 1, at 9; Doc. 10, at 18). Respondents assert that Petitioner is currently detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). (Doc. 10, at 11-12). Petitioner asserts he “is not eligible to seek a bond redetermination rehearing consistent with § 1226” because “[t]he immigration court now maintains it lacks legal authority to set a bond order” in light of *Hurtado*. (Doc. 1, at 2, 10). Petitioner’s removal proceeding is ongoing. (*See* Doc. 1, at 5).

III. Petitioner’s Claims and Respondents’ Responses

In Count I, Petitioner requests declaratory relief related to his instant detention. (*Id.* at 19-20). In Count II, Petitioner alleges violation of the INA, arguing that the mandatory detention provision at “8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) cannot apply [to him] as it only applies to

⁴ The Response states Petitioner was issued a Notice to Appear on March 17, 2022, (Doc. 10, at 18), but the Notice to Appear seems to have actually been issued on March 9, 2022. (Doc. 10, at Ex. 1, at 1).

those ‘seeking admission’ at the time of detention and Petitioner was not ‘seeking admission[’] at the time he was detained.’” (Doc. 1, at 20). According to Petitioner, he is instead detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). (*Id.*) In Count III, Petitioner contends his detention violates the Constitution. Petitioner alleges that the revocation of his “prior valid bond without first engaging in a pre-deprivation hearing violated Petitioner’s constitutional rights to due process,” and the current denial of a bond hearing by a neutral immigration judge violates the Fifth Amendment’s right to due process. (*Id.* at 21). He also states that his “arrest and seizure was not reasonable under the Fourth Amendment because it occurred in the absence of probable cause, a warrant, or an exception to the warrant requirement.” (*Id.*) In Count IV, Petitioner states “[t]he application of § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued detention and violates” various federal regulations. (*Id.* at 22). In Count V, Petitioner argues “[t]he application of § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner is arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with law, and as such, it violates the APA.” (*Id.* at 24). Petitioner seeks various relief, including “immediate release” and “suppress[ion of] all evidence obtained from [his most recent] arrest, including but not limited to Petitioner’s identity.” (*Id.* at 25).

Respondents contend that review of Petitioner’s claims is jurisdictionally barred. (Doc. 10, at 20-23). They assert that Petitioner is properly detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). (*Id.* at 23-39). Respondents state that Petitioner’s due process argument is premature and without basis. (*Id.* at 39-41). Lastly, Respondents argue that Petitioner’s APA and declaratory relief claims, and his invocation of the All Writs Act, are meritless. (*Id.* at 41-43).

IV. Standard of Review

To obtain habeas corpus relief, Petitioner must show that he is “in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3). “Challenges to immigration detention are properly brought directly through habeas.” *Soberanes v. Comfort*, 388 F.3d 1305, 1310 (10th Cir. 2004) (citing *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 687-88 (2001)).

V. Analysis

A. The Court Has Jurisdiction to Consider the Petition.

Based on specific provisions of the INA at issue, Respondents argue this Court lacks jurisdiction to consider Petitioner’s claims. (Doc. 10, at 20-23). Similar jurisdictional arguments have recently been rejected by multiple district courts throughout the country. *See, e.g., Hasan v. Crawford*, No. 1:25-CV-1408 (LMB/IDD), --- F.3d. Supp. ----, 2025 WL 2682255, at *3 n.7 (E.D. Va. Sep. 19, 2025) (“Federal courts throughout the country have similarly found that these jurisdiction-stripping provisions do not deprive the federal courts of jurisdiction to review a noncitizen’s challenge to the legality of his detention.”) (collecting cases). As explained below, the undersigned agrees with those courts that have found jurisdiction exists to consider arguments challenging detention in circumstances similar to Petitioner’s.

1. Sections 1252(a)(5) and 1252(b)(9).

Respondents first argue the Court lacks jurisdiction to consider the Petition because (1) the INA channels “claims related to removal orders” to a court of appeals rather than a district court, and (2) such claims include “[t]he decision to effectively begin those

proceedings via [8 U.S.C.] § 1225(b)(2)(A).” (Doc. 10, at 20) (citing 8 U.S.C. §§ 1252(a)(5) and 1252(b)(9)). Accordingly, Respondents argue that under § 1252(a)(5) and § 1252(b)(9), the decision to charge and detain Petitioner “can be reviewed by the appropriate court of appeals as part of any appeal of a final order of removal—but not this Court.” (*Id.*)

Several courts have recently rejected this jurisdictional argument for the fundamental reason that detention orders “are separate and apart from orders of removal.” *Hasan*, 2025 WL 2682255 at *4 (citation modified). Challenges to detention orders “are legal in nature and challenge specific conduct unrelated to removal proceedings.” *Garcia Cortes v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-02677-CNS, 2025 WL 2652880, at *2 (D. Colo. Sep. 16, 2025) (“Congress did not intend the zipper clause to cut off claims that have a tangential relationship with pending removal proceedings. A claim only arises from a removal proceeding when the parties in fact are challenging removal proceedings.”) (quoting *Mukantagara v. US. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 67 F.4th 1113, 1116 (10th Cir. 2023)) (citation modified); *Gutierrez v. Baltasar*, No. 25-CV-2720-RMR, 2025 WL 2962908, at *2-3 (D. Colo. Oct. 17, 2025) (rejecting jurisdictional argument, in part, because the petitioner’s claims challenging detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225 rather than § 1226 due to a change in policy was a challenge to specific conduct unrelated to removal proceedings).

The Supreme Court in *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 294-95 (2018), recognized the limited circumstances where § 1252(b)(9) would bar a district court’s jurisdiction. The Court in *Jennings* noted the aliens in that case “are not asking for review of an order of removal; they are not challenging the decision to detain them in the first

place or to seek removal; and they are not even challenging any part of the process by which their removability will be determined. Under these circumstances, § 1252(b)(9) does not present a jurisdictional bar.” *Id.*

Here, like many recent habeas cases by aliens challenging mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A), “Petitioner does not challenge any removal order because no order of removal has yet been entered against him. Rather, he challenges the constitutionality and legality of his detention during the period before his removal hearing.” *S.D.B.B. v. Johnson*, No. 1:25-cv-882, 2025 WL 2845170, at *3 (M.D.N.C. Oct. 7, 2025). As such, “§ 1252(b)(9) does not deprive the court of jurisdiction.” *Id.* This interpretation of § 1252(a)(5) and § 1252(b)(9) tracks the same recent analysis of several district courts. *See, e.g., Caballero v. Baltazar*, No. 25-cv-3120-NYW, 2025 WL 2977650, at *4 (Oct. 22, 2025) (ruling § 1252(b)(9) does not present a jurisdictional bar to an alien challenging “the legality of his continued detention without a bond hearing”); *Hasan*, 2025 WL 2682255, at *4 (“Section 1252(b)(9) does not insulate detention orders from judicial review because they are separate and apart from orders of removal.”) (citation modified); *Hernandez Marcelo v. Trump*, No. 3:25-cv-00094-RGE-WPK, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2741230, at *6 (S.D. Iowa Sep. 10, 2025) (concluding § 1252(a)(5) and § 1252(b)(9) are inapplicable because the habeas petitioner was challenging his detention without a bond hearing, not an order of removal); *Jose J.O.E. v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-3051 (ECT/DJF), --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2466670, at *7 (D. Minn. Aug. 27, 2025) (same) (collecting cases)). Notably, Respondents provided no example of a recent district court decision adopting their view.

The undersigned agrees with the prevailing analysis from other district courts that have recently considered this question and concludes that § 1252(a)(5) and § 1252(b)(9) do not deprive the Court of jurisdiction.

2. Section 1252(g)

Respondents also argue that the INA limits a district court’s jurisdiction to consider “any cause or claim by or on behalf of any alien arising from the decision or action by [DHS] to *commence* proceedings, *adjudicate* cases, or *execute* removal orders against any alien under this chapter.” (Doc. 10, at 21) (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g)). Respondents assert that “[t]he bar on considering the commencement of proceedings includes a bar on considering challenges to the *basis on which* DHS chooses to commence removal proceedings.” (*Id.*)

In *Reno v. American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Comm.*, 525 U.S. 471, 482 (1999), the Supreme Court explained that § 1252(g)’s jurisdictional bar applies only to “three discrete actions” – the commencement of removal proceedings, adjudication of removal proceedings, and execution of removal orders. The Supreme Court found it “implausible that the mention of three discrete events along the road to deportation was a shorthand way of referring to all claims arising from deportation proceedings.” *Id.* More recently, in *Jennings*, the Court reaffirmed this narrow reading, explaining that *Reno* “did not interpret [§ 1252(g)] to sweep in any claim that can technically be said to ‘arise from’ the three listed actions of the Attorney General.” 583 U.S. at 294. Instead, the statutory language refers “to just those three specific actions themselves.” *Id.*

Though § 1252(g) indeed imposes a jurisdictional bar on a court’s ability to review certain habeas petitions, the restrictions are to be read narrowly. *See, e.g., Reno*, 525 U.S. at 487 (referencing the Court’s “narrow reading of § 1252(g)”); *Gutierrez*, 2025 WL 2962908, at *3 (“Section 1252(g) imposes a narrow judicial bar to a federal court’s review of ‘any cause or claim by or on behalf of any alien arising from the decision or action by the Attorney General to commence proceedings, adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders against any alien under this chapter.’”) (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g)); *Hasan*, 2025 WL 2682255, at *4 (“Section 1252(g) has a narrow reach.”); *Garcia Cortes*, 2025 WL 2652880, at *1 (“These statutory bars are read narrowly.”); *Grigorian v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-22914-RAR, 2025 WL 2604573, at *3 (S.D. Fla. Sep. 9, 2025) (“The Supreme Court has given § 1252(g) a ‘narrow reading,’ emphasizing that it does not cover ‘all claims arising from deportation proceedings’ or impose ‘a general jurisdictional limitation.’”) (quoting *Reno*, 525 U.S. at 482, 487).

Here, Petitioner does not challenge the commencement of removal proceedings, the adjudication of removal proceedings, or the execution of removal orders. Instead, he challenges “the narrow legal questions of whether [his] detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225 violates the INA and whether he is entitled to a bond hearing under § 1226’s discretionary detention framework.” *Gutierrez*, 2025 WL 2962908, at *3. As such, Petitioner’s claims fall outside the narrow jurisdictional limitations of § 1252(g) and, accordingly, § 1252(g) does not deprive the Court of jurisdiction. This conclusion is consistent with many district courts that have recently addressed this jurisdictional challenge from the government. *See, e.g., Gonzalez Cortes v. Holt*, No. CIV-25-1176-SLP, 2026 WL 147435, at *3 (W.D. Okla.

Jan. 20, 2026) (finding § 1252(g) did not strip the court of jurisdiction to consider petitioner’s challenge to his detention under § 1225 rather than § 1226); *Alvarado Montoya v. Holt*, No. CIV-25-1231-JD, 2025 WL 3733302, at *5 (W.D. Okla. Dec. 26, 2025) (same); *Gutierrez*, 2025 WL 2962908, at *3 (same); *S.D.B.B.*, 2025 WL 2845170, at *3 (same); *Hasan*, 2025 WL 2682255, at *4 (same); *Garcia Cortes*, 2025 WL 2652880, at *1 (same).

Respondents cite only one decision, from the District of Minnesota, that has squarely ruled that § 1252(g) bars a district court’s jurisdiction to consider a petitioner’s challenge to detention.⁵ See *S.Q.D.C. v. Bondi*, No. 25-3348 (PAM/DLM), 2025 WL 2617973, at *3 (D. Minn. Sep. 9, 2025). That decision “appears to represent an extreme minority position, both in its own district and nationally.” *Gonzalez Martinez v. Noem*, No. EP-25-CV-430-KC, 2025 WL 2965859, at *2 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 21, 2025); see also *Belsai D.S. v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-3682 (KMM/EMB), 2025 WL 2802947, at *5 n.3 (D. Minn. Oct. 1, 2025) (“respectfully disagree[ing] with the conclusion reached by the Court in *S.Q.D.C.*”).⁶

⁵ The undersigned notes that Judge Wyrick recently indicated “grave doubts over whether [a district court] has subject matter jurisdiction” in these cases. *Gutierrez Sosa v. Holt*, No. CIV-25-1257-PRW, 2026 WL 36344, at *3 (W.D. Okla. Jan. 6, 2026). However, he declined to hold as much, instead rejecting the habeas petition on other grounds. *Id.*

⁶ The district court in *S.Q.D.C.* relied on *Alvarez v. U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf’t*, 818 F.3d 1194, 1203 (11th Cir. 2016). *S.Q.D.C.*, 2025 WL 2617973, at *3. Respondents likewise rely on *Alvarez* to argue that “[t]he bar on considering the commencement of proceedings includes a bar on considering challenges to the *basis on which* DHS chooses to commence removal proceedings.” (Doc. 10, at 21). Not only is *Alvarez* distinguishable on its facts from those here, but district courts considering detention orders have also recently disagreed with jurisdictional arguments relying on *Alvarez*. *E.g., Avila v. Bondi*,

3. Conclusion

The undersigned concludes that neither § 1252(a)(5), § 1252(b)(9), nor § 1252(g) bars this Court from jurisdiction to consider Petitioner’s challenge to his detention.

B. Section 1226(a) Applies to Petitioner’s Detention.

Petitioner argues he is being held in violation of the INA and that 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to him because he “was not ‘seeking admission[.]’ at the time he was detained.” (Doc. 1, at 20). According to Petitioner, his continued detention under § 1225(b)(2) is unlawful and he is entitled to at least a bond hearing under § 1226(a). (*Id.*)

Respondents contend that Petitioner is an “applicant for admission” who is “seeking admission” and therefore properly detained under § 1225(b)(2). (Doc. 10, at 17-18). That is, because Petitioner did not enter the country lawfully and has not departed, he is still considered an “applicant for admission” and “seeking admission” under § 1225. (*Id.* at 32-38).

The parties agree that if Petitioner is an “applicant for admission” who is “seeking admission” under § 1225(b)(2)(A), he is not entitled to a bond hearing. (Doc. 1, at 14; Doc. 10, at 16). They further agree that if he is not subject to § 1225, then Petitioner falls within the confines of § 1226(a), which would entitle him to a bond hearing. *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 306 (“Federal regulations provide that aliens detained under § 1226(a) receive bond hearings at the outset of detention.”). The undersigned has reviewed the statutory

No. 25-3741 (JRT/SGE), 2025 WL 2976539, at *4 (D. Minn. Oct. 21, 2025); *Belsai D.S.*, 2025 WL 2802947, at *5 n.3; *Grigorian*, 2025 WL 1895479, at *4-5 (S.D. Fla. July 8, 2025).

text, Congressional intent, legislative history, and § 1226(a)'s application for the past three decades, as well as numerous recent cases addressing this exact issue. The undersigned agrees with the great weight of authority and finds that Petitioner falls within the confines of § 1226(a), and not § 1225(b)(2)(A).

1. Statutory Interpretation of § 1225(b)(2)(A) and § 1226(a)

When interpreting a statute, the “inquiry begins with the statutory text, and ends there as well if the text is unambiguous.” *BedRoc Ltd., LLC v. United States*, 541 U.S. 176, 183 (2004). “If the statutory language is plain, [the Court] must enforce it according to its terms.” *King v. Burwell*, 576 U.S. 473, 486 (2015). “But oftentimes the meaning—or ambiguity—of certain words or phrases may only become evident when placed in context.” *Id.* (citation modified). “So when deciding whether the language is plain, the Court must read the words in their context and with a view to their place in the overall statutory scheme.” *Id.* (citation modified).

Section 1225(a)(1) describes an “applicant for admission” as “an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or who arrives in the United States.” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1) (citation modified). The statute defines “admission” and “admitted” as “the lawful entry of the alien into the United States after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer.” *Id.* § 1101(a)(13). As relevant here, § 1225(b)(2)(A) requires detention, “in the case of an alien who is an applicant for admission, if the examining immigration officer determines that an alien seeking admission is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted.” *Id.* § 1225(b)(2)(A). Section 1226(a), on the other hand,

authorizes detention of an alien “on a warrant issued by the Attorney General” pending removal proceedings. *Id.* § 1226(a).

At issue is whether “an applicant for admission” – that is, “an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted” – who is “seeking admission” includes an alien like Petitioner who intentionally avoided lawful entry. *See id.* § 1225(a)(1). The statutory text does not provide a definitive answer as to what it means to be present without admittance where, as here, the alien has already entered and spent many years residing in the United States. Even when statutory terms are unambiguous, context still matters. *See United States v. Bishop*, 412 U.S. 346, 356 (1973) (“[C]ontext is important in the quest for [a] word’s meaning.”); *United States v. Ceballos-Martinez*, 387 F.3d 1140, 1144 (10th Cir. 2004) (noting that statutory interpretation “requires [courts] to interpret Congress’s choice of words in the context that it chose to use them”). Further, “it is a cardinal principle of statutory construction that a statute ought, upon the whole, to be so construed that, if it can be prevented, no clause, sentence, or word shall be superfluous, void, or insignificant.” *TRW Inc. v. Andrews*, 534 U.S. 19, 31 (2001) (citation modified). When considering the overall context of § 1225, the undersigned concludes the statute limits the scope of the terms “applicant for admission” and “seeking admission” in § 1225(b)(2)(A).

At the outset, giving effect to each clause and word of a statute includes an analysis of the statute’s title. “A title is especially valuable where it reinforces what the text’s nouns and verbs independently suggest.” *Dubin v. United States*, 599 U.S. 110, 121 (2023) (citation modified). Section 1225 is titled: “Inspection by immigration officers; expedited removal of inadmissible *arriving* aliens; referral for hearing.” (Emphasis added). The use

of “arriving” to describe aliens indicates that the statute governs the entrance of aliens to the United States at the border or ports of entry.

This reading is bolstered by the fact that § 1225 establishes an inspection scheme for when to let aliens into the country. In fact, the subheading for § 1225(b)(2) reads “Inspection of Other Aliens,” reinforcing the idea that the subsection applies to those coming in, not already present. Section 1225(d) is labeled “Authority Relating to Inspections” and describes the powers of immigration officers to search and detain vessels and “arriving aliens.” *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1225(d)(1) (authorizing immigration officers to “board and search any vessel, aircraft, railway car, or other conveyance or vehicle in which they believe aliens are being brought into the United States”); *id.* § 1225(d)(2) (authorizing immigration officers to detain an “arriving” alien and incoming vessel or aircraft and to deliver the “arriving” alien for inspection). Section 1225 also explicitly addresses its effect on “stowaways” and “crewmen,” words that likewise suggest arrival at a border or port of entry. *See id.* § 1225(a)(2) (“An arriving alien who is a stowaway is not eligible to apply for admission or to be admitted shall be ordered removed upon inspection by an immigration officer.”); *id.* § 1225(a)(3) (“All aliens (including alien crewmen) who are applicants for admission or otherwise seeking admission or readmission to or transit through the United States shall be inspected by immigration officers.”).

Further, § 1225’s place in the overall statutory scheme supports the undersigned’s reading. *See King*, 576 U.S. at 486 (holding that courts are meant to “construe statutes, not isolated provisions”) (citation modified). That Congress separated removal of “arriving aliens” from its more general section for “Apprehension and detention of aliens” in § 1226,

strongly implies that Congress enacted § 1225 for a specific, limited purpose. Whereas § 1225 governs removal proceedings for “arriving aliens,” § 1226(a) serves as a catch-all. As the Supreme Court in *Jennings* explained, § 1226(a) is the “default rule” and “applies to aliens already present in the United States.” 583 U.S. at 288, 303.⁷ The inclusion of both provisions in the INA is likely no coincidence, but rather a way for Congress to delineate between the specified categories of § 1225 and the more general provision of § 1226(a), which captures aliens who fall outside of § 1225’s specificity.

Lastly, the use of “seeking admission” in § 1225(b)(2)(A) imposes an additional requirement for aliens subject to the statute. Numerous courts, and many judges in the Western District of Oklahoma, have concluded that an alien detained under § 1225(b)(2)(A) must be both an “applicant for admission” and “seeking admission.” *E.g.*, *Malacidze v. Noem*, No. CIV-25-1527-D, 2026 WL 227155, at *3 (W.D. Okla. Jan. 28, 2026) (“[T]he Court continues to conclude that § 1225(b)(2)(A) unambiguously requires that an “applicant for admission” also be “seeking admission” for the subsection to

⁷ Both Petitioner and Respondents argue that *Jennings* supports their position. (Doc. 1, at 12, 14; Doc. 10, at 38-39). The Court in *Jennings*, however, did not rule on whether non-admitted or inadmissible aliens were governed by § 1225(b)(2)(A) or § 1226(a). Accordingly, the undersigned takes the same approach as other courts that have recently addressed this issue and cites *Jennings* for its acknowledgement that § 1226(a) is the default rule but does not make a recommendation based on *Jennings*. *See, e.g.*, *Pizarro Reyes v. Raycraft*, No. 25-cv-12546, 2025 WL 2609425, at *5 n.4 (E.D. Mich. Sep. 9, 2025) (“The Court cites *Jennings* because it acknowledges § 1226(a) as the default rule. But the Supreme Court did not rule on whether non-admitted or inadmissible aliens fell within boundaries of § 1226(a) as opposed to § 1225(b)(2)(A).”); *S.D.B.B.*, 2025 WL 2845170, at *5 (“On the other hand, § 1226(a) sets out the ‘default rule’ for detaining and removing aliens ‘already present in the United States.’”) (quoting *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 303).

control.”); *Maldonado v. Noem*, No. CIV-25-1379-J, 2026 WL 160950, at *2 (W.D. Okla. Jan. 21, 2026) ([T]he Court concludes that the section only applies when a noncitizen ‘applicant for admission’ is actively seeking admission into the United States.”) (internal quotation marks omitted); *Gonzalez Cortes*, 2026 WL 147435, at *4 (“[E]ven assuming, without deciding, that Respondents are correct that Petitioner is an applicant for admission, they fail to establish that Petitioner is seeking admission under § 1225(b)(2).”) (internal quotation marks omitted). The undersigned agrees with these cases, especially considering a contrary reading would make the two terms “redundant and courts should avoid statutory interpretations which make any part of the statute superfluous.” *Medina-Herrera v. Noem*, No. CIV-25-1203-J, 2025 WL 3460946, at *3 (W.D. Okla. Dec. 2, 2025) (citation modified). Given this background, one court has persuasively reasoned that

[t]he plain meaning of the phrase “seeking admission” requires that the applicant must be presently and actively seeking lawful entry into the United States. The use of the present participle in § 1225(b)(2)(A) implies action – something that is currently occurring, and in this instance, would most logically occur at the border upon inspection.

Caballero, 2025 WL 2977650, at *6 (citation modified).

After considering the text and statutory framework, the undersigned concludes the terms “applicant for admission” and “seeking admission” in § 1225(b)(2) do not cleanly apply to aliens like Petitioner. Petitioner has resided in the United States continuously for over three years and there is no allegation he was arrested when attempting to cross the border or pass through a port of entry illegally. (Doc. 1, at 9-10; Doc. 10, at 17-19). Ultimately, a textual analysis of the immigration framework suggests Petitioner’s circumstances align with § 1226(a), not § 1225(b)(2)(A).

2. Legislative History and Recent Amendment

The legislative history and recent amendment of § 1226 also indicate the statute applies to aliens who reside in the United States but previously entered without inspection.

First, § 1226(a)'s predecessor statute, 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(1),

governed deportation proceedings for all noncitizens arrested within the United States. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(1) (1994) (“Pending a determination of deportability any noncitizen may, upon warrant of the Attorney General, be arrested and taken into custody.”); *Hose v. I.N.S.*, 180 F.3d 992, 994 (9th Cir. 1999) (“A deportation hearing was the ‘usual means of proceeding against a noncitizen already physically in the United States.’”). This predecessor statute, like Section 1226(a), included discretionary release on bond. *See* § 1252(a)(1) (1994) (“Any such noncitizen taken into custody may, in the discretion of the Attorney General be continued in custody or be released under bond.”). Upon passing [the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996], Congress declared that the new Section 1226(a) “restates the current provisions in the predecessor statute regarding the authority of the Attorney General to arrest, detain, and release on bond a noncitizen who is not lawfully in the United States.” H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, pt. 1, at 229; *see also* H.R. Rep. No. 104-828, at 210 (same).

Rodriguez v. Bostock, 779 F. Supp. 3d 1239, 1260 (W.D. Wash. 2025) (citation modified); *see also Pizarro Reyes, v. Raycraft*, No. 25-cv-12546, 2025 WL 2609425, at *7 (E.D. Mich. Sep. 9, 2025) (“If § 1226(a) adopted the predecessor[] [statute]’s authority to release noncitizens unlawfully present in the United States on bond, then [petitioner] is entitled to discretionary release on bond as well.”). This history contradicts Respondent’s claim that applying § 1226 to Petitioner “[u]ndermines the [p]urpose of [the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act].” (Doc. 10, at 25).

In addition, Congress’ recent amendment to § 1226 renders the government’s interpretation of § 1225(b)(2)(A) superfluous. Earlier this year, Congress amended § 1226

via the Laken Riley Act, Pub. L. No.119-1, 139 Stat. 3 (2025). The Laken Riley Act added § 1226(c)(1)(E), which mandates detention for aliens who

- are inadmissible under § 1182(a)(6)(A) (aliens present in the United States without being admitted or paroled, like Petitioner), § 1182(a)(6)(C) (misrepresentation), or § 1182(a)(7) (lacking valid documentation) and
- have been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of certain crimes.

8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E)(i)-(ii).

Considering that § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) specifically refers to “alien[s] present in the United States without being admitted or paroled,” and that § 1226(c)(1)(E) requires detention without bond of these individuals if they have also committed certain felonies, the new statutory exception would be superfluous if § 1225(b)(2) already authorized their mandatory detention regardless of felony status. That is, because an “alien present in the United States” without admittance would be unlikely to prove that they are “clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted,” ICE would never need to rely on § 1226(c)(1)(E) to detain them. *See Marx v. Gen. Rev. Corp.*, 568 U.S. 371, 386 (2013) (“The canon against surplusage is strongest when an interpretation would render superfluous another part of the same statutory scheme.”) (citation modified). District courts have noted that adoption of Respondents’ interpretation “would largely nullify a statute Congress enacted this very year and must be rejected.” *Pizarro Reyes*, 2025 WL 2609425, at *5 (quoting *Gomes v. Hyde*, No. 1:25-cv-11571-JEK, 2025 WL 1869299, at *7 (D. Mass. July 7, 2025)) (citation modified).

The undersigned’s recommended interpretation is consistent with recent holdings of numerous district courts that have ruled on this exact issue. *See, e.g., Menjivar Sanchez*

v. Wofford, No. 1:25-cv-01187-SKO (HC), 2025 WL 2959274, at *5 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 17, 2025) (“The third problem with the government’s argument is that application of section 1225(b)(2)(A) to noncitizens already in the country would render superfluous a recent amendment to section 1226(c).”); *Alvarez Puga v. Assistant Field Off. Dir., Krome N Serv. Processing Ctr.*, No. 25-24535-CIV, 2025 WL 2938369, at *5 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 15, 2025) (“If Respondents’ interpretation of section 1225 is correct – that the mandatory detention provision in section 1225(b)(2)(A) applies to all noncitizens present in the United States who have not been admitted – then Congress would have had no reason to enact section 1226(c)(1)(E).”); *Alejandro v. Olson*, No. 1:25-cv-02027-JPH-MKK, 2025 WL 2896348, at *8 (S.D. Ind. Oct. 11, 2025) (“Under Respondents’ expansive interpretation of § 1225, the amendment would have no purpose. Section 1225(b)(2) would already provide for mandatory detention of every unadmitted alien, regardless of whether the alien falls within one of the new classes of non-bondable aliens established by the Laken Riley Act.”); *Hyppolite v. Noem*, No. 25-CV-4304 (NRM), 2025 WL 2829511, at *10 (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 6, 2025) (same); *Quispe v. Crawford*, 1:25-cv-1471-AJT-LRV, 2025 WL 2783799, at *5 (E.D. Va. Sep. 29, 2025) (same); *Jimenez v. FCI Berlin, Warden*, No. 25-cv-326-LM-AJ, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2639390, at *9 (D.N.H. Sep. 8, 2025) (same); *Maldonado v. Olson*, No. 25-cv-3142 (SRN/SGE), 2025 WL 2374411, *12 (D. Minn. Aug. 15, 2025) (same); *Gomes*, 2025 WL 1869299, at *6-7 (same).

3. BIA’s Current and Historical Interpretations of § 1225(b)(2)(A) and § 1226(a)

On September 5, 2025, the BIA issued a precedential decision holding that an immigration judge lacks authority to consider a bond request for any person who is present in the United States without admission, treating such person as an applicant for admission and subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). *Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. at 220, 229. The BIA in *Hurtado* concluded that § 1225(b)(2)(A) covers inadmissible aliens who lived unlawfully in the United States for longer than two years without apprehension. *Id.* at 229.

The undersigned reaches the opposite conclusion from the BIA’s statutory analysis in *Hurtado*. Notably, this Court is not bound by the BIA’s interpretation of § 1225(b)(2)(A). *See Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369, 413 (2024) (“Courts need not and under the APA may not defer to an agency interpretation of the law simply because a statute is ambiguous.”) (citation modified). In *Hurtado*, the BIA characterized as a “legal conundrum” the idea that an alien’s continued unlawful presence means they are not “seeking admission.” 29 I. & N. Dec. at 221. However, an alien’s continued presence cannot constitute “seeking admission” when that alien *never attempted* to obtain lawful status. This is especially true in light of § 1225’s statutory context. The BIA also found that § 1225(b)(2)(A) does not render superfluous the Laken Riley Act. *Id.* at 222. Considering, however, that both § 1225(b)(2)(A) and § 1226(c)(1)(E) mandate detention for inadmissible aliens, the fact that one includes additional conditions for such detention does not alter the redundant impact.

The BIA's decision in *Hurtado* reflects a sharp pivot from long-standing immigration practice and policies. For almost three decades, most aliens who entered without inspection and were later apprehended were placed in standard removal proceedings and received bond hearings, unless subject to an exception. *See Inspection and Expedited Removal of Aliens; Detention and Removal of Aliens; Conduct of Removal Proceedings; Asylum Procedures*, 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10323 (Mar. 6, 1997) (“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.”) (citation modified). The decades of ICE practices lend support to Petitioner's entitlement to a bond re-determination hearing under § 1226(a) “because the longstanding practice of the government—like any other interpretive aid—can inform a court's determination of what the law is.” *Loper Bright Enters.*, 603 U.S. at 386 (citation modified). Respect for Executive Branch interpretations of statutes may be “especially warranted” when the interpretation “was issued roughly contemporaneously with enactment of the statute and remained consistent over time.” *Id.*

Accordingly, the government's historical application of immigration laws also supports the undersigned's conclusion that § 1226(a) applies to Petitioner. Again, this analysis aligns with numerous courts that have recently addressed this issue. *See, e.g., Jimenez Garcia v. Raybon*, No. 25-cv-13086, 2025 WL 2976950, at *4 (E.D. Mich. Oct. 21, 2025) (finding that “ICE's decision to upend 30 years of reasoned statutory interpretation is not persuasive”); *Sabi Polo v. Chestnut*, No. 1:25-CV-01342 JLT HBK, 2025 WL 2959346, at *11 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 17, 2025) (“Accordingly, the Court finds the

well-reasoned decisions of the many district courts that have rejected the Government’s expansive view of 1225(b)(2) far more persuasive than the new BIA ruling, a ruling at odds with its prior decisions and DHS’s actions over the past thirty years.”) (quoting *Salcedo Aceros v. Kaiser*, No. 25-cv-06924-EMC, 2025 WL 2637503, at * 12 (N.D. Cal. Sep. 12, 2025)).

4. Petitioner’s Previous Release Under § 1226(a)

Petitioner was detained and later released on a \$3,000 bond under § 1226 in March 2022. (Doc. 1, at Ex. 1, at 1). In addition to the foregoing statutory analysis, Petitioner’s current detention should be governed by § 1226(a) because he was arrested in the United States and previously released under § 1226(a) more than three years ago. *See, e.g., Bello Chacon v. Hermosillo*, No. 25-CV-02299, 2025 WL 3562666, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 12, 2025) (finding petitioner’s prior release on recognizance under § 1226 indicates he “was – and continues to be – subject to discretionary detention under § 1226”); *Chen v. Soto*, 25-17198, 2025 WL 3527239, at *3 (D.N.J. Dec. 9, 2025) (granting habeas relief and ordering respondents to provide a bond hearing for petitioner previously released on his own recognizance pursuant to § 1226 because previously treating petitioner under § 1226 “defeats respondents’ new position that a different statutory provision applies”).

5. Petitioner’s Attempts to Obtain Legal Residency Do Not Affect the Undersigned’s Analysis

During his removal proceedings, Petitioner filed a Form I-589 asylum application in an effort to obtain lawful residence in the United States. (*See* Doc. 10, at Ex. 2). According to Respondents, “Petitioner is seeking a form of admission” via this application.

(Doc. 10, at 18). Because the undersigned concludes that Petitioner could not have been an applicant for admission and seeking admission at the time he filed this form, Respondents' argument is necessarily meritless. As one court in this district stated,

Although the Petitioners in these cases have not been lawfully admitted and at various times took some action that would allow them to lawfully remain in the United States, these actions were taken outside the context of § 1225(b)(2)'s "seeking admission" requirement. They did not involve a preliminary examination by an examining immigration officer upon initial entry to the United States, nor did they occur in close temporal proximity to their initial arrival. Accordingly, mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2) is not authorized in these cases.

Medina-Herrera, 2025 WL 3460946, at *3 (quoting *P.R.S. v. Streeval*, No. 4:25-cv-343-CDL, 2025 WL 3269947, at *2 (M.D. Ga. Nov. 24, 2025)).

6. Conclusion

In sum, the undersigned is not persuaded by BIA's newfound statutory interpretation or Respondents' arguments and instead agrees with the myriad district courts that have recently applied § 1226(a) to govern detention of aliens like Petitioner. Respondents' arguments and BIA's decision to pivot from decades of consistent statutory interpretation and to mandate Petitioner's detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A) are contrary to nearly every court that has recently addressed this question of statutory interpretation.

As a starting point, opinions in the Western District of Oklahoma have largely applied § 1226(a) to aliens like Petitioner who were not inspected or admitted but who have lived in the United States for a period of years. *See, e.g., Hernandez Casallas v. Jones*, No. CIV-26-53-J, 2026 WL 324646, at *3 (W.D. Okla. Feb. 6, 2026) ("Having found § 1225(b)(2)(A) inapplicable to Petitioner, the Court agrees . . . that § 1226(a) controls his

detention.”); *Hernandez v. Grant*, No. CIV-25-1525-SLP, 2026 WL 184288, at *2 (W.D. Okla. Jan. 23, 2026) (“[T]he Court concludes that § 1226(a) governs Petitioner’s detention, and he is entitled to an individualized bond hearing.”). District courts within the Tenth Circuit have done the same. *See, e.g., Diaz Lopez v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-4089-NYW, 2026 WL 206220, at *4 (D. Colo. Jan. 27, 2026) (“The Court concurs with the numerous other district courts that have concluded that denying a bond hearing to a noncitizen detained under § 1226(a) violates the noncitizen’s due process rights.”); *Cuya-Priale v. Castro*, No. 2:25-cv-1166-KG-DLM, 2026 WL 74171, at *2 (D.N.M. Jan. 9, 2026) (“Consistent with the overwhelming majority of district courts to consider the issue and this Court’s prior findings, the Court finds that § 1226 governs here.”).

Further, courts around the country have consistently applied § 1226(a) to govern detention proceedings for aliens like Petitioner. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals recently indicated that plaintiffs arguing that “ICE’s authority to detain a noncitizen discovered within the country derives from § 1226(a) and not from § 1225(b)” most likely “have the better argument.” *Castanon-Nava v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 161 F.4th 1048, 1061 (7th Cir. 2025). This conclusion accords with district courts around the country. *See, e.g., Demirel v. Fed. Det. Ctr. Philadelphia*, No. 25-5488, 2025 WL 3218243, at *4 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 18, 2025) (“[O]f the 288 district court decisions to address the issue, 282 have determined that § 1226(a) applies or likely applies in situations similar to those presented here.”); *Balderas v. Olson*, 2025 WL 3210422, at *1 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 17, 2025) (“This case is similar to hundreds of cases across the country, and nearly all district judges have determined that the government’s novel interpretation of the immigration

detention statute is contrary to its plain language and inconsistent with binding precedent. This Court now joins the chorus of decisions granting a bond hearing to a detainee who had previously been present and living in the United States—a right guaranteed by statute and the Constitution.”); *Sabi Polo*, 2025 WL 2959346, at *11 (“This Court . . . joins the numerous other district courts that have rejected the government’s recent interpretation of the relationship between § 1225 and § 1226.”).

Finally, the undersigned has considered Respondents’ citations to recent cases adopting their position that aliens like Petitioner are “applicants for admission” and “seeking admission” despite years of residing in the United States. (*See* Doc. 10, at 12 n.3). The undersigned has also reviewed the thorough analysis in *Alvarado Montoya*, 2025 WL 3733302, and *Gutierrez Sosa v. Holt*, No. CIV-25-1257-PRW, 2026 WL 36344 (W.D. Okla. Jan. 6, 2026). Moreover, on February 6, 2026, a panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals came to the same conclusion, agreeing that such non-citizens may be detained pursuant to § 1225. *Buenrostro-Mendez v. Bondi*, No. 25-20496, --- F.4th ----, 2026 WL 323330, at *1 (5th Cir. Feb. 6, 2026). For the reasons previously discussed, the undersigned respectfully disagrees with the textual analysis and statutory interpretations by these district courts. The undersigned instead agrees with the overwhelming number of courts that have recently addressed this question. *See Jose-de-Jose v. Noem*, No. 25-1454-SLP, at 4 (W.D. Okla. Feb. 9, 2026) (granting habeas relief despite contrary authority in Western District of Oklahoma and Fifth Circuit).

After carefully analyzing the statute's text, structure, history, and long-standing immigration practices, the undersigned recommends that the Court apply § 1226(a) to govern Petitioner's detention.

C. Petitioner's Remedy is Immediate Release.

Petitioner alleges that "Respondents took Petitioner into custody without probable cause or a valid arrest warrant." (Doc. 1, at 9). According to Petitioner, such arrest without a warrant "d[oes] not comply with the arrest warrant requirements of 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)." (*Id.* at 18) (emphasis omitted). Respondents do not controvert that Petitioner was arrested without a warrant. (*See* Doc. 10, at 41). Instead, they argue that a failure to arrest Petitioner without a warrant is non-actionable because "Petitioner was arrested pursuant to Section 1225, which does not require a warrant for arrest." (*Id.*)

The undersigned's conclusion that Petitioner is detained pursuant to § 1226(a), and not § 1225(b)(2)(A), negates Respondent's argument. And under § 1226(a), a noncitizen may only be arrested and detained "[o]n a warrant issued by the Attorney General." 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). Respondents' failure to rebut Petitioner's allegation that no warrant was issued for his arrest leads the undersigned to conclude that no such warrant existed. Because Petitioner was improperly detained pursuant to § 1226(a), his instant detention was unlawful from the moment it began. Accordingly, the Court should grant Petitioner immediate release, subject to any conditions of his prior bond. *See, e.g., E.P.G. v. Bondi*, No. 26-560 (JRT-EMB), 2026 WL 242266, at *1 (D. Minn. Jan. 29, 2026) ("Where, as here, (1) Respondents erroneously assert that a detainee is being held pursuant to § 1225(b)(2); and (2) Respondents have not produced a warrant, as is required to effectuate

an arrest pursuant to § 1226(a) . . . the appropriate remedy is release from custody.”); *Choglo Chafila v. Scott*, 804 F. Supp. 3d 247, 264 (D. Me. Sep. 21, 2025) (“To put it simply, Petitioners’ detentions are improper because there is no evidence in the record that they were arrested pursuant to a warrant. Since the Government did not comply with the plain language of section 1226(a), their immediate release is justified.”).

The Court should not, however, suppress evidence obtained from Petitioner’s unlawful arrest. “[T]he essence of habeas corpus is an attack by a person in custody upon the legality of that custody, and that the traditional function of the writ is to secure release from illegal custody.” *Preiser v. Rodriguez*, 411 U.S. 475, 484 (1973). Habeas is an improper vehicle for the suppression of evidence relevant to a future proceeding. Additionally, to the extent Petitioner seeks to proactively suppress this evidence for a future civil immigration proceeding, “the exclusionary rule . . . does not ordinarily apply in civil deportation proceedings.” *Bauge v. I.N.S.*, 7 F.3d 1540, 1543 (10th Cir. 1993); *see also I.N.S. v. Lopez-Mendoza*, 468 U.S. 1032, 1051 (1984) (“We hold that evidence derived from [illegal] arrests need not be suppressed in a[] civil deportation hearing.”).

D. The Court Should Decline to Address Petitioner’s Remaining Claims.

Petitioner asserts various other claims in his Petition. (Doc. 1, at 19-24). If the Court grants Petitioner’s requested relief for immediate release, the undersigned recommends that the Court follow an approach of other district courts and decline to decide the merits of the remaining claims, and allow Petitioner to renew them if Respondents do not release him within the ordered time. *See Pizarro Reyes*, 2025 WL 2609425, at *8 (“The Court will decline to decide the merits of [petitioner’s] due process claim given that the

Court will grant the relief he seeks based on its interpretation of the applicability of § 1226(a).”); *see also Jimenez Garcia*, 2025 WL 2976950, at *4 (declining to analyze remaining claims); *Alvarez Puga*, 2025 WL 2938369, at *6 (citing *Pizarro Reyes* and declining to decide the merits of petitioner’s due process claim).

VI. Recommendation and Notice of Right to Object

For the reasons discussed above, the undersigned recommends that the Petition (Doc. 1) be **GRANTED in part**. The undersigned recommends that the Court release Petitioner immediately from custody, subject to any conditions of his prior bond, because Respondents failed to arrest Petitioner pursuant to a warrant under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). The undersigned further recommends that the Court order Respondents to certify compliance by filing a status report within ten days of the Court’s order.

The Court advises the parties of their right to object to this Report and Recommendation by February 19, 2026, under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(2).⁸ The Court further advises the parties that failure to make timely objection to this report and recommendation waives their right to appellate review of both factual and

⁸ Given the expedited nature of these proceedings, the undersigned has reduced the typical objection time to Report and Recommendations. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(2) advisory committee’s note to 1983 addition (noting that rule establishing 14-day response time “does not extend to habeas corpus petitions, which are covered by the specific rules relating to proceedings under Sections 2254 and 2255 of Title 28.”); *see also Whitmore v. Parker*, 484 F. App’x 227, 231, 231 n.2 (10th Cir. 2012) (“The Rules Governing § 2254 Cases may be applied discretionarily to habeas petitions under § 2241” and that “while the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure may be applied in habeas proceedings, they need not be in every instance – particularly where strict application would undermine the habeas review process.”).

legal issues contained herein. *See Moore v. United States*, 950 F.2d 656, 659 (10th Cir. 1991).

ENTERED this 12th day of February, 2026.


AMANDA L. MAXFIELD
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE