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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH

ARMANDO JESUS TORRES MEDINA,

Petitioner,

v.

EVAN TJADEN, Acting Field Office
Director, Salt Lake City Enforcement and
Removal Operations, U.S. Immigration and
Customs Enforcement (ICE/ERO);
JOHN DOE, ICE/ERO Field Agent;
KRISTI NOEM, Secretary United States
Department of Homeland Security;
PAMELA BONDI, U.S. Attorney General,

Respondents.

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNSEL

Case No. 2:26-cv-195 JNP

Petitioner Armando Torres is a citizen of Venezuela. He has filed a motion for a writ of habeas corpus to challenge his detention without bond by ICE. He is indigent and asks the court to appoint counsel to represent him in this matter.

Federal law authorizes the court to “appoint counsel for an applicant who is or becomes financially unable to afford counsel.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(h); 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B) (“Whenever the United States magistrate judge or the court determines that the interests of justice so require, representation may be provided for any financially eligible person who . . . is seeking relief under section 2241, 2254, or 2255 of title 28.”).

A motion to proceed in forma pauperis, submitted separately under seal (ECF No. 3), shows that Mr. Torres qualifies financially to have counsel appointed, and the nature and complexity of his claims—including their urgency—make it vital that the court appoint counsel. Counsel was unable to have Mr. Torres sign the IFP motion prior to his going into custody, but Mr. Torres authorized counsel to sign the form on his behalf.

For these reasons, undersigned counsel, acting at the request of Mr. Torres, respectfully asks the court to appoint counsel to represent her in this matter. The Federal Defender Office is currently able and willing to accept appointment of this case.

DATED this 9th day of March 2026.

/s/ Benjamin C. McMurray
BENJAMIN C. McMURRAY
Assistant Federal Public Defender