

1 WILLIAM BAKER, SBN 157 906
Moreno & Associates Law Firm, APC
2 2082 Otay Lakes Road, Ste. 102
Chula Vista, CA 91913
3 619-422-4885
william.baker@morenoandassociates.com

4
5 Attorney for Petitioner

6
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 Southern District of California

9
10 LORENZO CRISTOBAL ANTONIO,
11 Petitioner,

v.

12
13 CHRISTOPHER J. LaROSE ; *et al.*,
14 Respondents.

) Case Number: 26-cv-02387-LL-MMP
)
) **PETITIONER'S TRAVERSE AND**
) **MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF**
) **PETITION**

1 Petitioner submits this Traverse and Memorandum to comply with the Court’s order and the
2 habeas corpus procedure and to expedite the process.

3 **1225 v. 1226**

4 As a threshold matter, petitioner agrees with respondents non-opposition that petitioner is
5 detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). There have been dozens, maybe hundreds, of decisions in
6 the Southern District of California reaching this conclusion. Despite this wealth of established law
7 in this District, the respondent continue to obstinately detain noncitizens on this unlawful basis—
8 including petitioner. The Return concludes that the government “...does not oppose the petition and
9 defers to the Court on the appropriate relief.”

10 **Remedy**

11 In this case, the appropriate relief is an order that respondents immediately release petitioner
12 from detention. Petitioner has lived in the USA since 2007. He is in a long-term relationship with
13 his partner and he has three U.S. citizen minor children. Petitioner has been regularly employed. He
14 works at a sushi restaurant. He pays his taxes. He had a DUI from thirteen years ago and has no
15 other criminal history. Nevertheless, respondents have unlawfully detained petitioner since
16 February 12, 2026—a total of 70 days and counting. Petitioner is never getting those 70 days of life
17 back. Worse, respondents know that petitioner was entitled to a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. §
18 1226(a) but they are forcing him (and everyone else) to file habeas corpus petitions to compel
19 compliance with the law. Finally, there is a growing trend or realization that the bond proceedings
20 at the Otay Mesa Immigration Court are not fair. The EOIR system has been debased into a
21 deportation machine. The immigration judges apparently know that they risk being fired if they do
22 not perform their expected task of denying bonds. Respondents’ goal is to oppress noncitizens into
23 hopelessness, despair, and exhaustion so that they will abandon their rights.

24 But the court should not countenance this injustice. Accordingly, some courts are finding
25 that immediate release, rather than a bond hearing, is the appropriate remedy. *See E.A. T.-B. v.*
26 *Wamsley*, 795 F. Supp. 3d 1316, 1324 (W.D. Wash. 2025) (“Although the Government notes that
27 Petitioner may request a bond hearing while detained, such a post-deprivation hearing cannot serve
28 as an adequate procedural safeguard because it is after the fact and cannot prevent an erroneous

1 deprivation of liberty.”); *Jorge M.F. v. Jennings*, 534 F. Supp. 3d 1050, 1055 (N.D. Cal. 2021) (“if
2 Petitioner is detained, he will already have suffered the injury he is now seeking to avoid”);
3 *Domingo v. Kaiser*, Case No. 25-cv-05893 (RFL), 2025 WL 1940179, at *3 (N.D. Cal. July 14,
4 2025) (“Even if Petitioner[] received a prompt post-detention bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. §
5 1226(a) and was released at that point, he will have already suffered the harm that is the subject of
6 his motion; that is, his potentially erroneous detention.”).

7 So, petitioner seeks the following remedy:

- 8 1. Respondents are ordered to immediately release Petitioner from custody.
- 9 2. The Court orders, prior to any re-detention of Petitioner, that Petitioner shall receive
10 a hearing before an immigration judge pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) to determine whether
11 detention is warranted. Respondents shall bear the burden of establishing, by clear and convincing
12 evidence, that Petitioner poses a danger to the community or a risk of flight.

13 DATED: 23 April 2026

14 Respectfully submitted,

15 /s/ William Baker
16 William Baker (157 906)
17 MORENO & ASSOCIATES
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28