

No. 25-

25-6150

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

CRISTINA M. LANCRANJAN,

Petitioner,

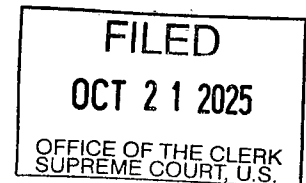
v.

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO,

Respondent;

BRETT F. TRUITT, Real Party in Interest.

ORIGINAL



ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT OF
CALIFORNIA

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- 1. Whether the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment is violated when a state court, without a full evidentiary hearing on the child's best interest or a finding of detriment, strips a fit, primary parent of her fundamental right to direct the education and upbringing of her child by unilaterally changing the child's six-year educational status quo without detriment or full evidentiary hearing and on a judicial "blanket policy."**
- 2. Whether a state court's refusal to modify a custody order that is causing demonstrable and ongoing physical and psychological harm to a child—a harm created by the bad-faith conduct of RPI—constitutes an abdication of the court's constitutional duty to protect the child's welfare.**
- 3. Whether a state court engages in unconstitutional retaliation in violation of the First Amendment when, immediately after a litigant files a motion to disqualify the judge for bias, the court strikes the motion and issues a punitive ruling denying the litigant's request to relocate with her child.**
- 4. Whether a state's justice system effectuates a complete breakdown of due process when it permits one party to illegally seize all marital assets and then denies the indigent, self-represented party access to those same funds to secure legal counsel, creating an unconstitutional structural imbalance that weaponizes the legal system as a tool of abuse.**

LIST OF PARTIES All parties to the proceedings below were:

- Cristina M. Lancranjan, Petitioner here.
- The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, Respondent.
- Brett F. Truitt, Real Party in Interest below, Respondent here

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OPINIONS BELOW

The final order of the Supreme Court of California summarily denying Petitioner's petition for review regarding the school order was entered on August 15, 2025 (App. X). The underlying Final Ruling on Child Custody from the Superior Court of California was entered on August 11, 2025 (App. Y).

JURISDICTION

The Supreme Court of California issued its final order denying review on August 15, 2025 (App. X). This petition is timely filed. This Court's jurisdiction is invoked under 28 U.S.C. § 1257(a).

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS INVOLVED The First, Sixth and Fourteenth

Amendments to the United States Constitution are involved.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This case presents a catastrophic breakdown of the state court system, where the courts were weaponized to strip a Mother, a forced self-represented litigant and a domestic abuse victim of her parental rights, her financial stability, and her constitutional right to a fair trial. The foundational injustice is a fraudulent, unserved "discovery declaration" from October 15, 2024, which became the "fruit of the poisonous tree."

Then, on January 9, 2025, The Court unconstitutionally stripped Petitioner of her parental rights regarding her son's education and healthcare, giving sole decision-making authority for schooling and vaccinations to the father who had previously abandoned the child. The judge based his ruling on a personal "blanket policy" and was issued after he denied Petitioner a meaningful opportunity to be heard, when the Court cut off Petitioner's attempts to speak, stating, "I've got a courtroom full of people. I've got to move on". Afterwards, the RPI's attorney submitted the false unserved FOAH from the Jan 9th 2025 to the Court and the Court signed it without due process for competing orders and refused to set it aside as void per all the violations stated the the Mother tried on multiple motions and EX parte requests including at the Sept 10, 2025 DVRO hearing (Appendix BB) where the court not only denied the request but retaliatory and unconstitutionally sanctioned the Mother.

The court systematically dismantled Petitioner's ability to defend herself, denying her access to marital funds for an attorney while forcing her to litigate pro se. On **March 18, 2025**, the judge explicitly prejudged the case, stating the fraudulent discovery issue was "a fact that weighs

heavily against you" in the upcoming move-away trial (APPENDIX B). It denied her access to marital funds for an attorney while the RPI, a willfully unemployed executive, used the illegally seized estate to fund the litigation. On April 29, 2025(Appendix D), the judge arbitrarily reversed his own correct ruling on attorney-client privilege from March 18th, 2025 (Appendix C), admitting his prior understanding was "wrong" AND unconstitutionally declare it waived without due process or allowing a hearing and refused to set aside the void and voidable order to address it (See May 15, 2025 RFO Appendix E and at other hearings Appendix: P, Q, M and Z) .

At the same hearing (Appendix D), he admonished Petitioner for making "murmurings under your breath" when she attempted to object to opposing counsel's misrepresentations, denying her the ability to make a record. The court refused to provide adequate support, refused mother parity and access to her own estate that the RPI illegally seised forcing her into self representation before the move away trial, after granting her attorney to be substituted from the case on March 18th, 2025, after she addressed the court that he and the previous attorney committed malpractice and prejudiced her case with regards to the discovery and the school orders and all the other orders including regarding the sanctions, after they took her money, refused to set aside void orders and allow the RPI's attorney to abuse her, by filing fraudulent false orders and documents prejudicing the integrity of the Court orders, and allowed RPI's attorney to violate court rules regarding due process rights (Appendix D, E, F, M, P, Q, T, Y, Z and BB) and allow the RPI's attorney to abuse the Mother in open court including at the move away hearing in May 2025 (Appendix F).

After all this abuse and injustice Petitioner filed a formal Statement of Disqualification on May 16, 2025 (Appendix F), that the judge improperly struck it (Appendix G), forcing Mother to file emergency 3 Writs and 2 Petition to CA Supreme Court and 2 Petitions of

Emergency Stay and 2 Writs of Certiorari to US Supreme Court, causing her extreme harm, emotionally, financially and legally, trying to to protect her basic constitutional and parental rights. This is abuse!

After Petitioner filed a formal Statement of Disqualification on **May 16, 2025**, the judge improperly struck it. **Immediately following this, Petitioner's pre-scheduled court reporters for the next several hearings were canceled without explanation, which Petitioner believes was an act of obstruction designed to prevent a clear record of the court's ongoing misconduct, AS THE COURT threatened HER TO TAKE AWAY THE COURT REPORTERS** on numerous occasions including on **SEPT 2ND, 2025 (APPENDIX Z)**. The court's retaliation continued with the denial of Petitioner's numerous ex parte requests for relief on April 7, April 15, May 7th, May 15, June 6, June 17, and August 5. The abuse reached a peak at the **September 10, 2025, DVRO hearing (Appendix BB)**, where the judge attacked Petitioner's character, stating, "I'm really starting to worry about you... You're letting this whole thing consume you... with hatred," before sanctioning her \$5,000 for seeking protection. **This is an egregious and legally indefensible act that goes to the heart of the constitutional violations in this case. The judge's conduct at the September 10, 2025, Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) hearing represents a complete breakdown of his judicial duty and a profound act of retaliation.**

Instead of impartially considering the extensive evidence of financial abuse, legal abuse, and physical coercion Mother presented (Appendix BB), the judge refused to address the actual merits of the request for protection. The court transcripts show that rather than evaluating the

RPI's abusive conduct, the judge turned the hearing into an attack on Mother's character, essentially blaming the victim for seeking help. **The Court did the same at the Move Away hearing (Appendix F) where Mother was abused in open court for 3 days after the Court denied her May 15, 2025 EX parte request to continue trial and secure funds to hire an attorney (Appendix F) and the court refused and continued the Trial when advised that Mother will file the Statement of Disqualification, which she did immediately the next day on May 16th, 2025, which lead to the retaliatory denial of her Move Away after being abused in court.**

The trauma caused due to the Court's abuse is undeserving and cruel and unjust and unconstitutional! Nobody should ever experience what the Applicant experienced -this is legal abuse for exercising her rights and retaliation for keeping the Court accountable (Violation of 1st Amendments).

By stating, "I'm really starting to worry about you... You're letting this whole thing consume you... with hatred," the judge demonstrated a shocking level of personal bias and completely abdicated his duty to protect a victim of abuse. A court's role is to be a safe forum for victims, not to subject them to further psychological and financial distress. The culmination of this abuse was the court sanctioning the Mother **\$5,000 for the very act of filing the DVRO, while the Court knows that the Mother is in financial ruin.** This is not merely an erroneous ruling; it is a direct and unconstitutional punishment for exercising Mother's First Amendment right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. It sends a chilling message to all self represented litigants who are trying to protect themselves against abuse, including legal abuse, and especially

to Mothers and all victims of abuse: if you seek protection in this court, you will be punished for it. **This is the most indefensible act of retaliation and a clear demonstration of why the judge should have been disqualified and why this entire process is constitutionally void.** The state appellate courts have summarily denied all requests for relief, thereby sanctioning this pattern of abuse.

The court's retaliation culminated in fundamental denial of due process and fair trial, stripping the Mother of her rights including parental rights and allow her to be abused by RPI and his attorney and the COURT using the very legal system that is supposed to protect and offer her justice, to abuse her and harm her and her child by the following orders: denial of parental rights regarding school and vaccinations due to void school order from Jan 9th 2025, the denial of Petitioner's move-away request on Aug 11, 2025, the Court allowed RPI to take her family car while the RPI requested to evict Petitioner and his own son on Sept 2nd, 2025, refused to grant Mother her meritorious motion to compel discovery on Aug 28, 2025 essentially allowing RPI to obstruct justice, refused to hold him in contempt for illegally seising all marital estate and in breach of fiduciary duties, including for maliciously using the funds to legally abuse the Mother by stranded her financially and legally abuse her in court, and not paying support for 17 months from April 2023-June 2024 and incorrect and insufficient support due to extrinsic fraud from Jan 9th 2025 void order and now barely any support causing Mother and her child financial ruin and inability to pay for rent and food, while the RPI is willfully unemployed since March 2025, an executive who decided to stay in San Diego while he is unemployed and stranded the Mother in San Diego as well due to the denial of the move away, because RPI wants to stay in San Diego, while he relocated in bad-faith in the middle of the

move away decision to a 1 h at least commute away for no reasons and while RPI is harming our son forcing him into a grueling commute on top of the void order regarding school from Jan 9th, 2025 while our son is in Mother's custodial time, forced to comply with this void harmful orders of grueling 2 hours commute for no reasons, while showing no detriment and while the Mother has been the Primary caretaker and parent and homeschool teacher for the entire life (Appendix EE), while she holds a teaching degree and is more than qualified to teach her child and while the child is advanced due to her teaching methodology per the School evaluation, while Court unconstitutionally denied her motions to Move to Boston, a recommendation made by the Court own expert based on May 31st, 2024 FCS Report (Appendix A), the legal standard and the evidence, refused to set aside void orders, including the Verified petition from Sep 2nd 2025 and her DVRO for protection from Sep 10, 2025. On September 10, 2025, the denial of her DVRO request, where the judge told her, "I'm really starting to worry about you," before sanctioning her \$5,000 for seeking protection is the most retaliatory legally indefensible.

This case presents a profound failure of the state court system to protect the constitutional rights of a self represented litigant, a parent, and the welfare of a child. The trial court, acting without proper evidence and based on an arbitrary "blanket policy," issued a void order on January 9, 2025, that upended a six-year-old child's life. This order stripped Petitioner, the child's lifelong primary caregiver of her fundamental right to direct his education. Forced into self-representation by the court's denial of access to marital funds, Petitioner faced an openly hostile court. The harm was then catastrophically amplified when the opposing party engaged in bad-faith conduct that the trial court has refused to remedy, and then later engaged in retaliatory actions after Mother filed a formal Statement of Disqualification against the judge, on May 16, 2025 (Appendix F), which he improperly and unconstitutionally struck it (Appendix G). The

judge's retaliation culminated in the August 11, 2025, denial of Petitioner's request to relocate to Boston—a decision that not only contradicted the court's own FCS expert (Appendix A) but also trapped Petitioner in a state of financial ruin, unable to accept job opportunities, all while she is not receiving correct or sufficient support to care for her son and herself and the Court refused to remedy the situation including denying her DVRO on Sep 10, 2025.

The state appellate courts, despite being presented with clear evidence of the ongoing harm to the child, summarily denied all requests for relief, leaving Petitioner with no other recourse, while she was legally, financially and psychologically abused.

For a complete history of the abuse and constitutional violations, see the **Comprehensive Case Chronology and Analysis of Void Orders** attached to the **Appendix**.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

This Court's review is necessary to address questions of exceptional national importance concerning the constitutional limits of state power in child custody matters and the access to immediate justice for vulnerable self-represented litigants, especially when abused. This Court has long held that a "fair trial in a fair tribunal is a basic requirement of due process." *In re Murchison*, 349 U.S. 133, 136 (1955). This principle is not a mere technicality; it is the bedrock of our entire system of justice. The proceedings in this case made a mockery of this fundamental guarantee. A biased judge acted as the arbiter of his own disqualification in direct violation of this Court's precedent; known extrinsic fraud was allowed to corrupt the record and serve as the basis for life-altering custody orders; and the state appellate courts abdicated their duty to intervene. This petition asks the Court to remedy not just a series of errors, but a systemic

collapse of constitutional safeguards that demands this Court's supervisory review.

I. The State Court Violated Fundamental Parental Rights.

First, the trial court's action of stripping a fit parent of her fundamental parental rights without an evidentiary hearing and based on a "blanket policy" is a direct violation of the principles established in cases like *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000). This case presents a critical opportunity for the Court to affirm that the Due Process Clause requires an individualized determination of a child's best interest based on evidence, not judicial preference or policy.

II. The State Abdicated its *Parens Patriae* Duty to Protect a Child. The state has a fundamental *parens patriae* duty to protect the welfare of children. This duty becomes a constitutional concern when the state, through its courts, not only fails to protect a child but becomes the instrument of harm. Here, the trial court's void orders—issued without due process—are causing demonstrable physical and psychological harm to a six-year-old child through a grueling commute and forced medical procedures. The state courts' refusal to remedy this ongoing harm, despite being presented with clear evidence, constitutes an abdication of their *parens patriae* duty and a violation of the child's rights under the Fourteenth Amendment. When a court's own order becomes an instrument of harm, due process requires the court to act. The state courts' failure to do so warrants this Court's supervisory review.

III. The Right to a Fair Trial Was Rendered Illusory by the Constructive Denial of Counsel.

While the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of counsel applies to criminal prosecutions, its principles are essential to understanding the profound violation of Petitioner's **Fourteenth Amendment right to due process**. The state court created a situation so fundamentally unfair that it amounted to a "constructive denial of counsel."

The court's actions made a fair trial impossible by:

- **Forcing Self-Representation at a Critical Stage:** The court permitted Petitioner's attorney to withdraw immediately before the critical move-away and custody trial, after he took all her money.
- **Denying Access to Funds for a Lawyer:** The court then repeatedly denied Petitioner's urgent requests to access her own marital funds to hire a new attorney, leaving her defenseless.
- **Creating a Grossly Unequal Playing Field:** This left Petitioner, a non-lawyer and victim of abuse, to defend her fundamental parental rights against an experienced and well-funded legal team, which was paid for with the very marital assets she was denied access to.

This was not merely a disadvantage; it was a **structural breakdown of the adversarial process**.

The state court engineered a proceeding where justice was dependent on wealth, punishing Petitioner for her court-induced indigence. This violates the core constitutional guarantee of a fair hearing under the Fourteenth Amendment.

IV. The State Court's Retaliation Against Protected Speech Demands Intervention

The right to challenge the fairness of a judicial proceeding is a cornerstone of the First Amendment. The record shows a clear pattern of punitive rulings, culminating in the denial of the move-away request, immediately following Petitioner's motion to disqualify the judge.

Striking the motion was a violation of the principle that "no man shall be a judge in his own

cause," a tenet of due process this Court reaffirmed in *Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co.*, 556 U.S. 868 (2009).

V. The Systemic Disadvantage of Self-Represented Litigants Presents an Issue of National Importance. In *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), this Court recognized that separate is inherently unequal. A similar principle applies here. When the justice system allows a wealthy, represented abuser to weaponize the courts against a financially devastated, self-represented victim, it creates two separate and unequal tracks of justice.

Just as *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (1966) established procedural safeguards for the accused, this Court should consider the need for robust due process protections for vulnerable civil litigants to ensure the courthouse doors are not merely a mirage of justice.

CONCLUSION AND PRAYER FOR RELIEF

The petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted. This is a demand for justice. This Court should reverse the judgment of the Supreme Court of California and remand with instructions for the state courts to provide Petitioner with comprehensive relief, including:

- 1. Vacate All Void Orders: Vacate the fraudulent October 15, 2024, discovery order and all subsequent orders that flow from it, including the January 9, 2025, school order, the August 11, 2025, denial of the move-away request, and all void order s and monetary sanctions.**
- 2. Order a New Trial Before an Impartial Judge: Order the disqualification of the trial judge and the assignment of a new, impartial judicial officer to conduct a new trial.**
- 3. Vacate All Orders Post-Disqualification Motion: Order that any and all orders made**

by Judge Christopher S. Morris on or after May 16, 2025, be vacated as void.

4. **Ensure Financial Parity and Access to Counsel:** Order the trial court to ensure Petitioner has immediate access to her share of the marital estate and to award attorney's fees.
5. **Impose Sanctions for Misconduct:** Instruct the state court to consider significant monetary sanctions against Respondent and his counsel for their pattern of litigation abuse.
6. **Refer for Disciplinary and Judicial Action:** Order the referral of opposing counsel, Petitioner's prior negligent attorneys, and the trial judge for investigation.
7. **Grant Custody and Move-Away:** Grant Petitioner's request to relocate to Boston with her son and award her sole legal and physical custody.
8. **Grant Such Other Relief as this Court deems just and proper to stop the abuse and restore Petitioner's constitutional rights.**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 20, 2025

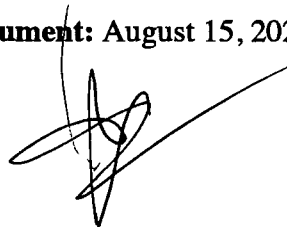
Cristina M. Lancranjan, *Pro SE* /s/Cristina Lancranjan

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Master Exhibit Lists FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI RE DENIAL CA SC No. S292384

APPENDIX

Petitioner possesses certified court reporter's transcripts for all relevant hearings. Due to the emergency nature of this filing and the significant cost of reproduction, Petitioner reserves the right to lodge these transcripts with the Court upon request and only attached :APPENDIX V TO EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR A STAY -**Document Title:** The Court's Final Statement of Decision on the Move-Away, APPENDIX W TO EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR A STAY -**Document Title:** August 5th Emergency Application to U.S. Supreme Court and the Court's Response **Date of Document:** August 5 & 7, 2025 and APPENDIX X TO EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR A STAY **Document Title:** California Supreme Court Final Denial of Petition for Review (Case No. S292384) **Date of Document:** August 15, 2025 .

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'S' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that extends to the right.