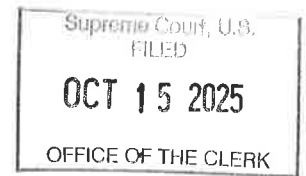


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No. 25-__

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

CRISTINA M. LANCRANJAN, Applicant,

v.

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, Respondent;

BRETT F. TRUITT, Real Party in Interest.

ON EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR A STAY OF ALL PROCEEDINGS IN THE
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, PENDING THE
DISPOSITION OF A PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

TO THE HONORABLE ELENA KAGAN, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME
COURT OF THE UNITED STATES AND CIRCUIT JUSTICE FOR THE NINTH
CIRCUIT

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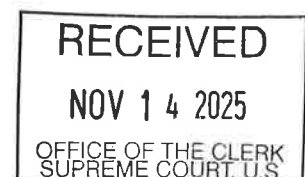


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APPLICATION FOR A STAY

Applicant, Cristina M. Lancranjan, appearing pro se, respectfully applies for a stay of all further proceedings in the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, Case No. 23FL000584C, pending this Court's disposition of her accompanying Petition for a Writ of Certiorari.

INTRODUCTION

This emergency application seeks to stay state court proceedings that have become fundamentally unconstitutional. This is an emergency application to stop an illegal and unjust prosecution. Applicant, the victim of spousal abandonment and financial abuse, has been systematically stripped of her fundamental rights to due process, a fair trial, and parental rights and meaningful parental involvement and abused for trying to protect her rights. The state court system, from the trial court to the California Supreme Court, has failed to remedy known extrinsic fraud and has instead enabled the weaponization of the legal process against her.

After the Real Party in Interest, Brett F. Truitt ("RPI"), improperly seized the entire marital estate in violation of automatic restraining orders, he used those community funds to finance this litigation abuse. The trial court has not only permitted this but has actively participated, imposing over \$15,000 in sanctions based on void orders while denying Applicant's meritorious motions to set aside those orders, compel discovery, obtain adequate support, and secure a domestic violence restraining order (DVRO) while imposing void orders that stripped her of her fundamental constitutional rights, all while the Applicant was in financial ruin not able to pay for rent or food for her child due to the trial's court orders and while force to litigate in pro se. The court has used its power to chill and punish Applicant for exercising her fundamental right to seek justice, causing profound psychological trauma, financial ruin and legal abuse.

The state court's retaliatory actions following Applicant's motion to disqualify the judge, its refusal to vacate void orders, and the profound psychological trauma inflicted by forcing her into self-representation against an abusive, well-funded opponent, constitute a complete breakdown of the constitutional promise of a fair trial. The appellate courts' summary denial of relief in the face of this record represents an abdication of their duty.

The unconstitutionality of this process is evidenced by the extraordinary measures Applicant has been forced to take: filing over twenty motions in 6 months, tens of declarations, and three separate emergency writs merely to be heard and to stay void, unconstitutional orders. The state appellate courts' summary denial of relief in the face of this record constitutes an abdication of their duty and a violation of human rights. This case presents a stark case study for legislative reform on the systemic abuse faced by self-represented litigants.

This unconstitutional process is about to reach a devastating conclusion. Emboldened by the trial court's bias, opposing counsel is actively pursuing motions to strip Applicant of custody and have her declared a "vexatious litigant" for the very act of filing motions to protect her rights and because she refused to be coerced into giving up her rights. The upcoming hearings on **October 30, 2025 with FCS regarding custody**, and **December 2, 2025**, represent immediate and irreparable harm. A standard appeal, which could take years, is an inadequate remedy for a mother on the brink of homelessness who is about to lose her child based on a void and unconstitutional legal process. This Court's intervention is urgently needed to halt proceedings that are causing immediate and irreparable harm.

STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

The California Supreme Court denied Applicant's final petition for review on August 13, 2025. This Court has jurisdiction to issue a stay under **28 U.S.C. § 2101(f)** and **Rule 23** of the Rules of this Court.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

A. Extrinsic Fraud Establishes a Void, Unconstitutional Process

The foundation of this case's injustice is an unserved "discovery declaration" dated October 15, 2024, which resulted in a void order that unconstitutionally stripped Applicant of her attorney-client privilege, due process rights, parental rights and other rights. Despite Applicant presenting clear evidence of this extrinsic fraud, the trial court repeatedly refused to set aside this and subsequent void orders. This initial fraud created a cascade of violations under the **Fourteenth**

Amendment, including:

- A void school/vaccination order of January 9, 2025, which stripped Applicant of her fundamental parental rights without due process which are causing harm to her and her child.
- The imposition of over \$15,000 in sanctions based on these void orders, punishing Applicant for the alleged negligence of prior counsel and the fraudulent actions of opposing counsel.
- The denial of numerous motions seeking relief, including requests to set aside void orders, for adequate spousal and child support, to compel discovery of hidden assets, deal of her move away for financial and education opportunity and for a DVRO for protective order against abuse.

The court has allowed the proceedings to be built upon a foundation of fraud, rendering every subsequent order constitutionally infirm.

These actions are intended to chill the efforts of a self-represented victim of abuse who lacks the ability to protect herself or her son and is in urgent need of emergency relief.

B. Constructive Denial of Counsel and Financial Abuse

The trial court has enabled legal and financial abuse in violation of the **Fourteenth Amendment**.

The court has refused to grant Applicant's motions for proper support, after signing a false fraudulent Final Order After Hearing (FOAH) submitted by RPI's attorney to the court in violation of Court Rules which denied her due process rights to object and have a fair hearing, to

compel discovery, allowing RPI to conceal millions of dollars in assets while Applicant and her son face imminent homelessness.

After her attorney committed malpractice and was permitted to withdraw, the court denied Applicant access to the marital estate to hire new counsel. This forced Applicant—a stay-at-home mother in a 19-year marriage with no income—into self-representation right before a critical custody trial. Meanwhile, her high-earning ex-husband used the improperly seized community funds to pay his attorney fees, which now approach \$200,000.

Meanwhile, her high-earning ex-husband executive, now willfully unemployed since March 31, 2025 or lying of such as the court refused to grant my motion to compel discovery, used the illegally seized community funds to pay his attorney fees, to use money for unlawful relocation and personal expenses all while the mother is in financial ruin. For seventeen months, RPI paid no support, leaving Applicant and her son destitute. The court refused to compel discovery of hidden assets and only ordered insufficient support after eviction proceedings began in June 2025.

The court has consistently refused Applicant's pleas for adequate financial support which caused financial ruin and psychological trauma to the Mother who is stranded in San Diego due to the trial court unable to work. Only after eviction proceedings began did the court order RPI to pay for one month of rent in June 2025 after 2 EX parte motions. On June 24, 2025, the court awarded Applicant a small, unfair portion of the marital estate based on a fraudulent FOAH which included false representations of the order including regarding accounting submitted by RPI, after the court tried to coerce me at the hearing into accepting a settlement of my entire

estate without proper accounting or discovery, ensuring her financial ruin. This culminated in the court accepting the Fraudulent Final Order After Hearing (FOAH) containing the fraudulent accounting and Applicant's forged signature, even after I advised the court of such and requested to strike the FOAH, which effectively stripped Applicant of her share of the marital estate and due process violation. These actions have stranded Applicant in San Diego after the court denied her good-faith request to relocate to Boston with her child, for employment and educational opportunities, as she is the primary and always has been the primary caretaker, especially after her ex-husband abandoned her and their son and with a favorable recommendation from the court's own Family Court Services (FCS) counselor, all while her willfully unemployed ex-husband relocated to a 2 hour commute location in the middle of the move away decision, without notice, for no reasons, in June 2025 and while he claims that he wants to stay in San Diego, CA. When I addressed the court in EX parte the court denied my EX parte and refused to address the merits.

C. Retaliation for Protected Speech and Overt Judicial Bias

The trial court's actions strongly suggest retaliation for Applicant's exercise of her **First Amendment** rights. After Applicant filed a procedurally proper motion to disqualify the biased judge, the court's rulings became increasingly punitive. This culminated in the denial of her move-away request, the denial of all her motions to compel, set aside void orders, and obtain support, and the imposition of another \$5,000 sanction against her for seeking a DVRO in addition to \$10,000 due to the fraudulent unserved "discovery declaration" dated October 15, 2024, file by RPI's attorney which also resulted in a void order that unconstitutionally stripped

Applicant of her attorney-client privilege, denial of her move away as the Court stated on March 18, 2025 (see court transcripts) that this will negatively impact the move-away, and all other void orders, including stripping the Mother of her parental rights where she is not even allowed to chose a school for her son after the court changed her son's 6 year homeschooled status quo, without detriment based on Father's request, after the Father abandoned the family and his son from April 2023-June 2024 (See FCS report and the Case Chronology attached to the Appendix) based on Court's bias which was based on a 'blanket' decision (see Jan 9th 2025 Court transcripts) and based on a false unserved FOAH that the RPI's attorney submitted to court, again denying Mother's due process rights.

This pattern of abuse was on full display during the move-away trial, where the court allowed opposing counsel to use abuse her, to use illegally obtain evidence and 45 exhibits that were submitted 5 court days prior to trial while refusing to grant her motion in Limine and to Seal. The judge's bias became explicit during all the hearing but especially at the September 10, 2025, hearing on Applicant's DVRO request. Instead of addressing the evidence of abuse, the judge told Applicant, "I'm really starting to worry about you... You're letting this whole thing consume you... with hatred," before sanctioning her for bringing the request (Transcript, Sept. 10, 2025, attached as Exhibit). These are not mere errors of discretion; they are structural constitutional failures that have rendered the state court proceedings fundamentally unfair and illegitimate.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE STAY

A stay is warranted because the state court proceedings are void, abusive, and causing catastrophic, irreparable harm. To obtain a stay from a Circuit Justice, an applicant must

demonstrate (1) a reasonable probability that four Justices will vote to grant certiorari; (2) a fair prospect that a majority of the Court will reverse the judgment below; and (3) a likelihood of irreparable harm in the absence of a stay. *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, 558 U.S. 183 (2010). The equities, including the public interest, must also be considered. *Rostker v. Goldberg*, 448 U.S. 1306 (1980). Applicant meets this stringent standard.

A. There Is a Reasonable Probability Certiorari Will Be Granted to Address Significant Federal Questions

This case presents federal questions of exceptional importance, making it reasonably probable that certiorari will be granted. The certified transcripts provide undeniable proof of judicial bias and retaliation. The key federal questions are:

1. Whether a state court's refusal to remedy known extrinsic fraud, which results in the deprivation of fundamental parental rights and access to counsel, violates the Due Process Clause of the **Fourteenth Amendment**.
2. Whether a state court's pattern of punitive rulings and sanctions immediately following a litigant's motion to disqualify the judge constitutes impermissible retaliation in violation of the **First Amendment**.
3. Whether the systemic denial of due process to a financially disadvantaged, self-represented litigant—including the denial of access to community funds for counsel while the opposing party uses those same funds against her—constitutes a structural breakdown of a fair trial under the **Fourteenth Amendment**.

The systemic denial of due process to a pro se litigant in the face of documented fraud and judicial bias demands this Court's review.

A fair trial in a fair tribunal is a basic requirement of due process. *In re Murchison*, 349 U.S. 133, 136 (1955). The trial judge acting as "judge in his own cause" by striking the disqualification motion presents a clear constitutional issue under *Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co.*, 556 U.S. 868 (2009). The state courts' failure to correct these profound constitutional violations makes it reasonably probable this Court will grant review.

B. Applicant Faces Immediate and Irreparable Harm

The harm Applicant faces is both irreparable and immediate. The upcoming hearings on **October 30, 2025**, and **December 2, 2025**, threaten to:

- Permanently sever the bond between a mother and her child by stripping her of custody based on a tainted and unconstitutional record.
- Extinguish Applicant's right to seek justice by branding her a "vexatious litigant"—the ultimate punishment for seeking protection through the courts.
- More legal abuse and denial of a fair trial and financial devastation which will prevent the Mother from being able to protect her son and herself.

This is a quintessential form of irreparable injury that a years-long appeal process cannot cure.

Absent a stay, Applicant will lose her parental rights and her ability to access the courts based on proceedings that are constitutionally void, financial ruin and homelessness.

C. The Balance of Equities and the Public Interest Favor a Stay

The balance of equities overwhelmingly favors Applicant. A stay merely pauses proceedings that are already constitutionally infirm. The harm to Applicant is the imminent and complete loss of her parental rights, her financial stability, and her right to due process. The only harm to RPI is a delay in finalizing a divorce through a process predicated on fraud and abuse.

Finally, the public interest demands a stay. The public has a profound interest in ensuring that state courts do not serve as instruments of fraud, particularly against vulnerable, self-represented litigants. Allowing these proceedings to continue undermines public confidence in the integrity of the judicial system.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that a stay be issued, enjoining the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, from conducting any further proceedings in Case No. 23FL000584C pending this Court's disposition of her Petition for a Writ of Certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,

Cristina M. Lancranjan, *Pro Se* Date: October 15, 2025 /s/Cristina Lancranjan



DOCUMENT: Proof of Service (To Be Signed by a Third Party)

I, [Print Name of Server *Mike Stevens*], declare:

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this action. My business/residence address is [Server's Full Address *825 W E ST SAN DIEGO, CA 92101*].

On Oct , 2025, I served the following document:

1. EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR A STAY OF ALL PROCEEDINGS IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, PENDING THE DISPOSITION OF A PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI. 2. PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI. 3. MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS. 4. Case Chronology. 5. Appendix, by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope and depositing it for delivery with a third-party commercial carrier for overnight delivery, with all fees fully paid, addressed as follows:
 - A. Peter Saatjian, Esq. PS Law, APC 11622 El Camino Real, Ste. 100 San Diego, CA 92130;
 - B. Clerk of the Court Supreme Court of California 350 McAllister Street San Francisco, CA 92102
 - C. Clerk/Executive Officer Superior Court of California, County of San Diego 1100 Union Street San Diego, CA 92101 Atty Hon Judge Morris

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on Oct 2025, at [City, State where signed].

 (Signature of Server)

[Print Name of Server. *Mike Stevens*]

**Additional material
from this filing is
available in the
Clerk's Office.**