

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION AT SANTA ANA  
HONORABLE DAVID O. CARTER, JUDGE PRESIDING

**CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
PLAINTIFF,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	CASE NO. 2:25-cv-09149-DOC
	)	
ROBERT PAGE, in his capacity as	)	
Registrar of Voters for Orange	)	
County,	)	
	)	
DEFENDANT.	)	
_____	)	

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

9:16 A.M.

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1 **SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA; THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025; 9:16 A.M.**

2 **-000-**

3 THE COURT: We're on the record in the matter of  
4 Page. It's Case No. 25-01370 and the matter of Weber, which  
5 is 25-cv-09149. And this was to be a status conference, so  
6 I wasn't inconveniencing folks.

7 So let me begin with the appearances by the  
8 plaintiff.

9 MR. GATES: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 Michael Gates with the Department of Justice, on  
11 behalf of plaintiffs.

12 THE COURT: Pleasure.

13 MR. GATES: Good morning, Your Honor.

14 MS. HAMILL: Julie Hamill, on behalf of plaintiffs  
09:16:58 15 United States.

16 THE COURT: Pleasure.

17 Now, are you local also?

18 MS. HAMILL: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: So you're here in case --

09:17:04 20 MS. SHOAI: Good morning, Your Honor.

21 Deputy County Counsel Suzanne Shoai, on behalf of  
22 defendant Robert Page.

23 MR. RICHARDS: And good morning, Your Honor.

24 Daniel Richards, Deputy County Counsel for  
09:17:14 25 defendant Robert Page.

09:17:16 1 THE COURT: Okay. First, I scheduled this for  
2 hearing on November 17th but moved it to Los Angeles in  
3 Courtroom 1, so that's where you'll make your appearance.  
4 But the real reason we're here is to see how we're  
09:17:37 5 proceeding with the Weber case, in light of a requested stay  
6 on the Page matter.

7 And so any information you could give me would be  
8 helpful if you have any contact with Attorney General Bonta  
9 or the State.

09:17:56 10 MR. GATES: Your Honor, if I may begin?

11 THE COURT: Please.

12 MR. GATES: And I would also request some maybe  
13 insight or explanation to your first comment about the  
14 Los Angeles location. I'm not sure what you mean by that.

09:18:09 15 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to have the hearing  
16 November 17 at Los Angeles.

17 MR. GATES: Okay.

18 THE COURT: Not in this courthouse, so I don't  
19 want you driving here. Go to L.A.

09:18:18 20 MR. GATES: Understood. Okay. And that hearing,  
21 Your Honor, I believe is the intervenors requesting to  
22 intervene in the state case.

23 THE COURT: Exactly.

24 MR. GATES: That's the only issue set for that  
09:18:28 25 date.

09:18:28 1 Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Well, just a moment. No, I'm not sure  
3 of that at all. Besides the intervenor, I may be hearing  
4 motions --

09:18:36 5 Well, let me turn this over to you to see what  
6 you -- how you each want to shape this, before I start  
7 intervening. But my concern is this: If I'm going -- first  
8 of all, my thanks to Judge Fitzgerald. That was a very  
9 quick transfer into my court. If I'm proceeding on Weber,  
09:18:55 10 then -- before you told me that you wanted to stay Page, but  
11 I wasn't willing to do that until first I got the Weber case  
12 and I didn't know last time whether that would be  
13 transferred to me. I assumed it would. It's with a low  
14 number. And second, in case we were having any difficulty  
09:19:14 15 with the State, they're right across the street in  
16 Los Angeles. There's no problem getting them, okay?

17 So I apologize for the inconvenience for you  
18 driving there, but I think for efficiency's sake, some of  
19 those folks can't find Santa Ana.

09:19:29 20 MR. GATES: That's fine, Your Honor. When we were  
21 here two weeks ago, we were not able to confirm that the  
22 State had been served in the Weber matter and we have been  
23 able to confirm service and we filed that with the Court, so  
24 they are -- they should be fully engaged. I don't think  
09:19:47 25 they were summoned to court here today.

09:19:50 1 THE COURT: No, they weren't. This was just a  
2 status conference for us.

3 MR. GATES: And just for the Court's recollection,  
4 the stay was not so much related to the fact that there may  
09:20:00 5 be one case related or impacted by another. The stay  
6 requests we're merely a function of the Department of  
7 Justice filing stay requests in every single civil case  
8 during the shutdown.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

09:20:12 10 MR. GATES: And the Court indicated early on and  
11 when we first appeared that this Court may not grant the  
12 stay, because in the interest of justice, it's important to  
13 move cases along with or without a government shutdown. And  
14 so -- and we have had other cases -- the Department of  
09:20:28 15 Justice has had other cases where other judges across the  
16 country are denying the stays in order to --

17 *(Court Reporter requests clarification for the*  
18 *record.)*

19 MR. GATES: Yes. And I apologize.

09:20:35 20 In cases that we have filed in other parts of the  
21 U.S., we have also gotten stays denied so that the cases can  
22 move forward. So it's just a typical function of the  
23 Government to file those stay requests when a shutdown  
24 occurs, but there are instances, perhaps, this one as the  
09:20:56 25 Court indicated earlier that it would deny the stay in order

09:20:59 1 to continue -- get this case going, because the elections  
2 issue is an important issue and it's right around the corner  
3 for 2026.

4 THE COURT: We've already had proposition -- was  
09:21:10 5 it proposition -- what was it?

6 MR. GATES: 50, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: 50. I'm just joking with you.

8 Yeah, and we didn't get to it, but I don't know --  
9 but we do have the November elections coming up. We've got  
09:21:23 10 to get this resolved, one way or the other.

11 MR. GATES: So if Your Honor is -- and there is a  
12 stay request also in the state case which is why -- I'm not  
13 sure how that plays into the Court's mind with the request  
14 for intervention, because with the request for intervention  
09:21:37 15 and the U.S. Government's opposition to that intervention,  
16 we are essentially litigating that case even though there is  
17 a stay request in that case that has not been addressed.

18 THE COURT: Now, the intervenor -- the requested  
19 intervenor is what? There's -- we've gotten -- who is the  
09:21:56 20 requested intervenor?

21 MR. GATES: I would have to double-check on that,  
22 Your Honor. I think might be the DNC and LULAC and other --

23 THE COURT: The reason is we're getting a number  
24 of them. The first, I thought, was from the NAACP and then  
09:22:15 25 we just expected we would get more but, quite frankly, we

09:22:18 1 didn't check yesterday, so I'm not sure who's intervening.

2 Help me. Do you have knowledge about -- we can go  
3 back and take -- by the way, when you walk down the  
4 hallway -- my apologies -- that has to be a little strange  
09:22:30 5 seeing a gorilla.

6 *(Laughter.)*

7 THE COURT: It's Veterans Day, on November 11th,  
8 and it's Marine Corps birthday on November 12th. And so  
9 every year for the past 25 years, we've held a birthday  
09:22:49 10 party for the Marine Corps and all the celebration of  
11 veterans. So in old days, you couldn't run for political  
12 office literally in Orange County, unless you had come from  
13 the Marine Corps or the military. That's kind of changed.  
14 but back in the 1970's everybody came tumbling out of  
09:23:00 15 Vietnam.

16 So it's kind of been a tradition. You're both  
17 invited. I don't care if you come *ex-parte*, the way it is.  
18 Have some coffee and cake, but it's not a requirement. It's  
19 not compulsory, but there may be members of local government  
09:23:13 20 coming over. I never know. So I just wanted to warn you,  
21 but you're more than welcome. That's why the strangeness.  
22 We have a lot of fun for about an hour from 12 to 1:00,  
23 okay?

24 Now, I'm sorry.

09:23:21 25 MR. GATES: That's great, Your Honor.



09:23:22 1 So the stay in both cases should be addressed by  
2 the Court probably sooner rather than later so that we know,  
3 I think, where the parties stand in terms of ability to  
4 litigate.

09:23:35 5 THE COURT: And by the way, I'm not holding any of  
6 you to your prior requests for stay or not. In other words,  
7 the landscape is going to constantly change. So because you  
8 have taken a position on day one, you may have an entirely  
9 new situation with the State joining you now which causes a  
09:23:52 10 change of position. There's no concern on the Court's part,  
11 okay.

12 Well, if that's the case, what would I do today,  
13 other than thank you for the information?

14 MR. GATES: Well, I think that's an important part  
09:24:05 15 of it is the update. I think the other part of it was  
16 two weeks ago when we had a very similar conversation, I  
17 think the hope was there might be a chance to haul the State  
18 into court today, if it was possible, so that we would have  
19 a status conference with all three parties essentially and  
09:24:25 20 figure out what the Court wants to do with the stays in both  
21 cases and how we're going to move forward together.

22 So I think that was the hope. It didn't quite  
23 turn out that way. But I do think for a good record, a  
24 clean record and for the parties to know what we're doing in  
09:24:41 25 terms of our litigation posture at this point, I think the

09:24:46 1 stay requests need to be resolved once and for all. The  
2 stay request in the county case has now been pending for  
3 some time. The stay in the state case, obviously, is much  
4 newer, but I think the Court could deal with it at the same  
09:25:01 5 time, and it may impact whether the Court -- if the court  
6 were inclined to grant the stays, then it would impact the  
7 intervention requests, right?, and that's right around the  
8 corner on the 17th as well.

9 THE COURT: Are the intervenors intervening in the  
09:25:17 10 Page matter, because I would expect that they really would  
11 be intervening in the Weber matter?

12 MR. GATES: That's correct.

13 THE COURT: And I haven't seen any intervenor come  
14 forward on the Page matter, have you?

09:25:28 15 MR. GATES: No, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Then if the intervenors are focused on  
17 the state matter, I would need to resolve that in  
18 Los Angeles on November 17 and give them notice to be in  
19 court.

09:25:44 20 Have I done that yet? I don't think I have.

21 MR. GATES: Notice to be in court on the question  
22 of the stay?

23 THE COURT: Of the intervention. In other words,  
24 they have the right not to submit a paper, but I may be  
09:26:00 25 accepting some and rejecting some.

09:26:01 1 MR. GATES: Understood.

2 THE COURT: And in the past when I've had  
3 intervenors, I've always paid the courtesy, *Hey, come to*  
4 *court and don't take the chance that the Court might decide*  
09:26:12 5 *something on the papers when you have more up-to-date*  
6 *information than the documents you filed two weeks before.*

7 MR. GATES: I understand your question now. And  
8 to answer your question, we don't have any information that  
9 the Court has done anything, one way or the other.

09:26:25 10 THE COURT: I need your help. I humbly need your  
11 help. I need to get a list of intervenors put together as  
12 an updated list, and I need to send out a draft document  
13 notifying the intervenors that if they are serious about  
14 their request that they're in court. Now, I can get,  
09:26:45 15 unfortunately, a large number, but I can go through those  
16 pretty quickly. And, quite frankly, on the papers, most  
17 courts -- in this Court can decide who is the appropriate  
18 intervenor or not. By the same token, what happens if I  
19 make a mistake and they're a valid intervenor? They have  
09:27:01 20 the right to make their presentation about why they would  
21 lend some benefit on this case. And that's far different  
22 than being an amicus. An amicus is an entirely different  
23 proceeding, and I'm not calling for amicus briefings on  
24 this. I'm not interested at the present time on everybody  
09:27:21 25 in the country mailing me some document from various states,

09:27:26 1 including -- or individuals from states who think they have  
2 an interest in what right now is uniquely a California issue  
3 but has national implications. That's why I would like to  
4 hear from the intervenors, briefly, probably three minutes  
09:27:44 5 to five minutes at the very most about why they would lend  
6 some value and credibility; and number two, I have to decide  
7 am I going to have multiple intervenors or not. When you  
8 have intervention, what I in the past have suffered from, is  
9 any possibility of multiple intervenors. And that really  
09:28:04 10 clouds the issue for both of you as time consumptive for the  
11 Court.

12 MR. GATES: And, Your Honor, to that end, perhaps,  
13 I could make a suggestion about that.

14 THE COURT: Please.

09:28:13 15 MR. GATES: Perhaps the Court would entertain  
16 maybe another hearing next week on Tuesday, prior to the  
17 17th, wherein the State is summoned to court, along with the  
18 County, just so that we're all here on the same page and  
19 Your Honor could share with the parties, at least -- maybe  
09:28:34 20 not the intervenors, but the State -- kind of what the Court  
21 has in mind in terms of the game plan moving forward,  
22 including the stay issue. I think dealing with that prior  
23 to the 17th is probably prudent, but I would defer to the  
24 Court's judgment.

09:28:49 25 THE COURT: Help me. I need both of your help

09:28:52 1 again.

2 Why would I decide that prior to the 17th?

3 MR. GATES: Well, I think if the matter is stayed,  
4 Your Honor, if it were to be granted -- which I'm not  
09:29:04 5 suggesting that the Court does -- but if it were to be  
6 granted, that would probably stay the intervention as well,  
7 I would think. But, again, even that's up to the Court.

8 THE COURT: Help me with that argument. If I stay  
9 the Page matter, and I haven't had any --

09:29:20 10 MR. GATES: I'm referring to the State matter.  
11 There's a request for stay in the State matter as well.

12 THE COURT: Oh, there is?

13 MR. GATES: There is.

14 THE COURT: Who's that from?

09:29:29 15 MR. GATES: Well, that's from the Department of  
16 Justice. And as I said, in every single one of our cases,  
17 once the shutdown was announced, just as an impulsive  
18 mechanism, we had to file requests for stay in every case.

19 THE COURT: That's, hypothetically, assumed that  
09:29:44 20 the Court, based upon the prior conversation, was not  
21 inclined to stay the State matter?

22 And that -- when I have the Page matter, the  
23 question is whether I stay that. The benefit and detriment  
24 that I heard from you is, *Judge, if you stay the Page*  
09:30:03 25 *matter, that may not give us the discovery that we wanted,*

09:30:07 1 *but by the same token, we were -- we were filing across the*  
2 *country, et cetera, as a policy decision.*

3 That eventually is going to be up to you without  
4 any indication whether -- what I would do, so you don't have  
09:30:23 5 to do that today, because things may change dramatically.  
6 And I'm going to accept your recommendation of -- Tuesday is  
7 Veterans Day. That's when we're having the party, okay?  
8 And Wednesday is going to be a very interesting day.

9 Well, it has to be Thursday. And depending upon  
09:30:46 10 what happens on Thursday in Los Angeles, we could be  
11 engaged --

12 MR. GATES: Okay.

13 THE COURT: But I'm going to schedule it for  
14 Thursday anyway -- and I want you to check your calendars --  
09:30:58 15 Thursday of next week. And I'll have a status conference.  
16 But, by the way, I could have the status conference here,  
17 and I'll set it for here, initially, not to inconvenience  
18 you, if that's okay? But if we're still engaged in  
19 Los Angeles.

09:31:13 20 What we might be engaged in --

21 MR. GATES: Okay.

22 THE COURT: Well, what we've set, quite frankly,  
23 so you know are the homeless issues.

24 MR. GATES: Yes.

09:31:21 25 THE COURT: And what it involves is a request for

09:31:25 1 attorney's fees on the plaintiff's side of \$1.2 million and  
2 the City's opposition -- Gibson & Dunn was paid almost  
3 \$6 million to represent the City with 15 attorneys at \$1,500  
4 an hour. I don't know that I'll do that, but I have  
09:31:51 5 scheduled oral arguments. In addition, there's a requested  
6 stay concerning my orders to the mayor and counsel  
7 concerning the numbers that they purport to have sheltered  
8 or housed in Los Angeles. Let's just say from the RAND  
9 Corporation on down, there's some discrepancy and  
09:32:22 10 disagreement about whether those numbers are valid. That  
11 could turn into a very interesting and heated hearing with,  
12 probably, the plaintiffs and, actually, the advocacy group  
13 for the homeless who normally don't agree, probably being  
14 critical of the City in terms of lack of attorney's fees  
09:32:55 15 with expenditure to Gibson Dunn. It could also get very  
16 interesting in terms of who the City Attorney is and who's  
17 running Los Angeles, whether it's Gibson Dunn now making  
18 lateral decisions or whether this Court is going to hold the  
19 Mayor and the Council as the entity and not let that  
09:33:19 20 segmentation take place.

21 So what I'm giving you is things that I haven't  
22 decided that just I can anticipate going to be very heated.  
23 There could be even a much more interesting hearing,  
24 depending upon what happens today, in terms of some  
09:33:38 25 compliance dates, and I'll leave that because I haven't

09:33:42 1 decided, and I'm waiting until midnight tonight. So if that  
2 happens, you'll read about it in *Los Angeles Times*, trust  
3 me. And that could be protracted also with various people  
4 being summoned.

09:33:57 5 And before going on, what I'm painting to you is  
6 all the things that could happen with the Court not having a  
7 decision and some very important things playing out today.  
8 So I'm going to schedule you for Thursday, in Los Angeles.  
9 I think that this is going to be a very interesting and  
09:34:15 10 volatile hearing between the parties. And if not, if we can  
11 resolve it on Wednesday, I'll move you right back here if  
12 you want to, okay?

13 I don't want to run the State around, and I also  
14 didn't know the State's position, and I didn't want to make  
09:34:28 15 it, quite frankly and transparently, easy for the State to  
16 say that they can't find the Broadway exit off the I5  
17 freeway to Orange County, and that oftentimes happens. So  
18 they're right across the street, and they can be summoned  
19 very quickly. So right now, that's why Los Angeles,  
09:34:47 20 transparently. I didn't know the State's position, but they  
21 will be here.

22 MR. GATES: Your Honor, just to underscore, I  
23 think the importance of maybe addressing the stay request in  
24 the state case next Thursday so that every -- I think  
09:35:04 25 everybody then will know where all the parties are in terms



09:35:07 1 of --

2 THE COURT: I need the stay here. That's the  
3 problem. In other words, I want the State present, because  
4 now I'm dealing with what I call the holistic -- whether you  
09:35:16 5 call it Page and Weber, I need to know what the State's  
6 position is also. I know what the County's position is. I  
7 know what your position is concerning Page. I'm not sure  
8 what's out there with the State. And if the State is  
9 balking or not wanting to go forward or runs up with  
09:35:34 10 procedural issues, I don't want to get caught in that box.  
11 And you don't know either. I'm assuming everything goes  
12 smoothly. I need the State here.

13 MS. SHOAI: I understand, Your Honor.

14 Just to make sure we understand the order, the  
09:35:41 15 order is for the hearing to take place in Los Angeles on  
16 Thursday, and it will be --

17 THE COURT: No, no. The hearing for  
18 November 17th.

19 MS. SHOAI: Okay.

09:35:53 20 THE COURT: Now, next week, what I'm informing you  
21 of is when we're deciding this next status conference date,  
22 we're trying to figure out when you're coming back to court.  
23 It was suggested Tuesday. Obviously, not that first day.  
24 Wednesday I'm trying to tell you, I don't know what I'm  
09:36:08 25 facing. I don't know if I'm summoning Mayor Bass or not,

09:36:10 1 okay? Could get very interesting.

2 And as you notice, a number of indictments have  
3 now been handed down. And what's fascinating about this is  
4 that for years Los Angeles hasn't had a forensic audit.

09:36:31 5 35 to 40 years, quite frankly, if the Mayor took any program  
6 under his or her pants or skirts, you couldn't audit that  
7 program. So for 35 years, nobody has looked at Los Angeles.

8 Now, where did that \$600 million go? Where did  
9 that \$24 billion go? Where are those receipts?

09:36:56 10 This is going to be very interesting. That's why  
11 I'm telling you and without deciding all these issues,  
12 unless this Court starts asking questions, nobody else is  
13 going to. The providers aren't going to ask questions.  
14 Elected officials aren't going to ask questions. In other

09:37:15 15 words, there's nothing that drives accountability and  
16 transparency in Los Angeles at the present time for these  
17 hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars -- and I  
18 can't get receipts. So it's going to get interesting.

19 That's why I'm telling you next Thursday, you may be sitting  
09:37:36 20 there being entertained.

21 MR. GATES: That's fine, Your Honor. We will  
22 happily be there with you.

23 THE COURT: You have no choice, but that's not  
24 fine. I'm just joking with you.

09:37:47 25 MR. GATES: I want to happily be there, but I just

09:37:49 1 wanted to --

2 (Laughter.)

3 THE COURT: I need the State here. If you get the  
4 State here next Thursday, I'm happy to do that. But I'm not  
09:37:55 5 happy just to take the Page matter in a vacuum right now  
6 without hearing from the State. Because, quite frankly, I  
7 would be inclined to wrestle with this decision with  
8 complete transparency, so you can prepare, okay?

9 If you both wanted the stay, I'm inclined to take  
09:38:12 10 your wisdom on that. But by the same token, I'm hearing,  
11 *Judge, we on the Government side may want to go ahead on*  
12 *discovery in terms of, you know, the dog or other acts in*  
13 *Orange County.* I haven't decided that yet. I don't want to  
14 prematurely decide that. And I certainly -- that's in  
09:38:34 15 balance for me with the little I know about it right now. I  
16 just haven't decided that even in my own mind. I don't have  
17 a preference.

18 On one hand, you may have a very good argument,  
19 *Judge, we want to go forward. We want discovery of this*  
09:38:46 20 *which strikes against your stay. On the other hand, we want*  
21 *a stay it, Judge. This is ridiculous. Why are we getting*  
22 *discovery, if you're going to go ahead with the Weber case?*

23 MS. SHOAI: Exactly.

24 THE COURT: Now, hold on. Exactly. I haven't  
09:39:02 25 decided that. And I need the State here, because what I

09:39:05 1 don't want to do is cause a premature stay on this case and  
2 have the State come and start slow walking me. And so I  
3 need to hear and see the stay, and they need to be very  
4 clear and you need to be very clear from the Court that this  
09:39:18 5 is taking too long. Already this is taking too long, and  
6 I'm not going to grant a stay or not and have the State come  
7 in and start slow walking me, okay? This is going to get  
8 decided, and I want the courtesy of them being here and know  
9 their initial position. Now, if they start dancing on me  
09:39:34 10 and don't give me an answer, I know exactly what to do.

11 MR. GATES: So, Your Honor, just for  
12 clarification, for the Court's order for today for next  
13 Thursday will the State be notified --

14 THE COURT: Exactly.

09:39:44 15 MR. GATES: -- to appear.

16 THE COURT: Exactly.

17 MR. GATES: And will the docket reflect a hearing  
18 on the stay for the State case at that same hearing?

19 THE COURT: Yes.

09:39:51 20 MR. GATES: Okay. Perfect. I think that will  
21 help a lot.

22 THE COURT: The State case on the State and/or  
23 local, Page.

24 MS. SHOAI: Correct.

09:40:03 25 THE COURT: Because what happens if the State

09:40:04 1 says, *We want this stayed?* And I've already stayed the Page  
2 case. No, in other words, this will never get resolved.  
3 Those are the things I'm struggling with. For complete  
4 transparency, I got to have the State here. So I don't  
09:40:21 5 think they can be here, or would they, probably, be here  
6 next Thursday. And so that's why I'm wondering what we're  
7 doing next Thursday, because I can hear you Thursday of the  
8 following week, and I can decide it by Friday, or Saturday,  
9 or Sunday and send out notice to you. See, that's why I am  
09:40:38 10 wondering what are we doing next Thursday, unless we've got  
11 a guarantee that the State will be and even then I want to  
12 hear from the intervenors.

13 MR. GATES: Okay.

14 THE COURT: Okay. So help me. I think what I  
09:40:50 15 need to do is draft an order minimally and redraft it for  
16 November 17th. I think I need to -- which is the hearing  
17 date in Los Angeles -- I think I need to send that out again  
18 and notify the intervenors that they're to be present and  
19 able to make a presentation limited to three minutes and see  
09:41:09 20 who appears. Because if it's just a paper shuffle, I don't  
21 want to deal with that. And, finally, the intervenor is  
22 very interesting. Am I going to have multiple intervenors?  
23 I mean, I'm going to have one. Is the NAACP going to show  
24 up and, you know, the -- whoever doesn't, or vice versa?  
09:41:31 25 And what's the relevance? Why are they intervening?

09:41:35 1 Just because they write to the Court doesn't mean  
2 they're proper. You have a chance to argue that that way.  
3 And right now if I just decide on the papers, what is your  
4 argument?

09:41:44 5 Now, I'm not sure. When I first got one of them,  
6 I may have actually approved it. I'm not sure. Have I  
7 approved any of these interventions so far?

8 MR. GATES: Not that the parties have seen,  
9 Your Honor.

09:41:55 10 THE COURT: Okay. I don't think I have, but check  
11 my record. I didn't intend to, if I did. I think I got the  
12 first one in, and that was a real debate back in chambers,  
13 quite frankly, with my law clerks and me, and I won. I  
14 didn't sign an intervention that I know of.

09:42:10 15 Do you know if I've signed an intervention?

16 MS. SHOAI: Your Honor, I'm not aware of any in  
17 this case. I think the Court rejected one request to file  
18 an immediate --

19 THE COURT: Yeah, that was with the Obama birth  
09:42:25 20 certificate case.

21 So once again, I need your help today, and then  
22 I'm going to get you out of here. Why am I convening next  
23 Thursday which I'm willing to do?

24 I'm sorry. Is the following Thursday  
09:42:42 25 November 17th?

09:42:44 1 MS. SHOAI: I believe so.

2 THE COURT: Karlen, what's our next date in  
3 Los Angeles? I have November 17th, so Monday. It's a  
4 Monday.

09:42:52 5 So tell me what I would be doing next Thursday,  
6 because I need the intervenors. Now, you two talk for a  
7 moment. I'm going to call two other matters and get you out  
8 of here.

9 MR. GATES: I think I can quickly answer the  
09:43:05 10 question that I think it's important for the Court to  
11 address the stay request in the State case next Thursday so  
12 that we can then comfortably, assuming the Court denies the  
13 stay request and comfortably move forward with the  
14 intervenors on the 17th.

09:43:21 15 THE COURT: But will they be here? In other  
16 words, can you guarantee that the State is going to -- I can  
17 send out notice; but up until today, I didn't know that they  
18 had even been served.

19 MS. SHOAI: Well, Your Honor, I can represent that  
09:43:32 20 they have been served, and I believe as the Court gives  
21 notice to the State that they will appear. And I could also  
22 let the Court know that we've actually been in contact with  
23 the State. We did an informal meet and confer regarding  
24 their anticipated 12(b)(6) motion. And so I believe that if  
09:43:52 25 the Court gives them notice, they will appear.

09:43:55 1 THE COURT: I'm going to take this on the 17th.

2 MS. SHOAI: Okay.

3 THE COURT: Because I could simply, two days  
4 later, after the issue is decided, make a much better

09:44:05 5 decision. And I can also have the intervenors in the same  
6 day, so I'm going to leave this on the 17th in Los Angeles.  
7 I'm not going to take another hearing next week. I think  
8 it's a waste of your time, quite frankly.

9 MS. SHOAI: I understand, Your Honor.

09:44:20 10 THE COURT: Okay. My apologies to the plaintiffs  
11 in this matter. I'm not going to decide that next week.  
12 I'll decide on the 17th.

13 MR. GATES: Your Honor, and the -- I think the  
14 suggestion for a hearing next week would be to get everybody  
09:44:29 15 in the same room on the same page at the same time. I don't  
16 know if -- I don't know if the County is a part of the 17th  
17 hearing or not.

18 MS. SHOAI: If the Court is going to continue this  
19 hearing to the 17th, in Los Angeles, then we'll certainly be  
09:44:42 20 there.

21 THE COURT: Well, why don't I order you there,  
22 because I'm including Weber and Page together. I'm trying  
23 to marry these two cases up.

24 Guess what we're going to do today? You're going  
09:44:50 25 to go out and draft something for me. Isn't that going to



09:44:54 1 be wonderful?

2           You're going to go out and draft a minute order so  
3 we can discuss it, okay? Just sit down with pen and pencil.

4 I've got a few cases to call. And the hearing will be on

09:45:04 5 November 17th. I want you to draft that the interventors  
6 will be allowed to make their presentation in court, orally,

7 and any requested intervenors so we have the most current

8 intervenors; that the issue concerning the stay will be

9 decided on that date or shortly thereafter and that the

09:45:28 10 County is ordered to appear and the State is ordered to

11 appear so we have Page and Weber on the same place at the

12 same date, and I don't have to do this piecemeal, okay?

13           So go take a pen. And if you're here at

14 1:00 o'clock, that's fine. Enjoy coffee and cake with us.

09:45:42 15 If you can get it done beforehand, so be it, okay?

16           MR. GATES: Thank you, Your Honor.

17           MS. SHOAI: Thank you.

18           *(Pause in proceedings.)*

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1           **SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA; THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025;**

2                           **10:09 A.M.**

3                           **-oOo-**

4                   THE COURT: We're back on the record in the Page  
5 and Wheeler [sic] matter. The Page matter is 25-cv-01370.  
6 The Weber matter, which we'll refer to as the statewide  
7 matter or the State matter is 25-cv-09149.

8                   I've drafted the following, but I want a little  
9 bit of time to consider that portion that I tentatively  
10:09:43 10 wasn't going to include.

11                   So it would tentatively read: The hearing is  
12 continued in this matter to November 17th, at 9:00 a.m., in  
13 Courtroom 1 of the First Street Courthouse in Los Angeles,  
14 and I'll change that to the "Federal Courthouse in  
10:09:59 15 Los Angeles, located on 1st Street."

16                   The intervenors in the Weber matter are ordered to  
17 appear and each afforded up to three minutes of oral  
18 argument. The Court may construe any nonappearance is  
19 without good cause as a waiver of the right to intervene.  
10:10:15 20 That lets them know to be there. By the same token, it  
21 gives me wiggle room in case I think that they are important  
22 as an intervenor.

23                   At the November 17th hearing, the Court will  
24 consider the motions to stay in the Page and Weber matters,  
10:10:29 25 along with motions to intervene in the Weber matter. These

10:10:33 1 issues will be decided at the November 17th hearing or  
2 shortly thereafter. The Court will likely rule on the  
3 record.

4 Counsel for Mr. Page, the State of California and  
10:10:44 5 the United States Government are ordered to appear in  
6 person.

7 Now, one more question. I'm going to docket  
8 these -- this order on both the Page and Weber matter so  
9 there's no confusion.

10:10:56 10 Would that be acceptable to each of you?

11 MS. SHOAI: I think that's appropriate,  
12 Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Now, let me change -- is that  
14 acceptable to the Government?

10:11:01 15 MR. GATES: Perfect.

16 THE COURT: If I change a few words -- but that  
17 will be the gist of it so I can get you out of here, okay?

18 Do you have anymore questions of me? Otherwise,  
19 it's been a pleasure to have you here.

10:11:08 20 MS. SHOAI: Your Honor, I just have two items I  
21 want to mention to you: One is we got a referral to an ADR  
22 mediator, but I believe that the Court already waived the  
23 ADR requirement.

24 THE COURT: I'm going to waive the ADR. I think  
10:11:21 25 it's a waste of your time. This matter is going to get

10:11:23 1 litigated.

2 MR. GATES: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Do you both agree, by the way?

4 MR. GATES: Yes.

10:11:25 5 THE COURT: ADR is a waste of your time?

6 MS. SHOAI: Yes.

7 THE COURT: All right. Counsel -- Karlen,  
8 specifically, on the record: ADR is waived.

9 MS. SHOAI: Thank you, Your Honor.

10:11:33 10 The other item I just wanted to mention is that  
11 after our last hearing, we were ordered to provide an update  
12 to the Court regarding continuing certain discovery dates,  
13 and I just wanted to let the Court know that we did provide  
14 that update, but since then we sort of had a hiccup with our  
10:11:48 15 motion for protective order before the magistrate judge.

16 The hearing date that we selected might not be available.  
17 We're still trying to iron that out. But for that reason,  
18 we might need to further meet and confer regarding discovery  
19 dates and if and when we do, we can provide the Court with  
10:12:03 20 another update, if the Court would like to --

21 THE COURT: I'm also wondering if the Court  
22 shouldn't seize discovery back from the magistrate judge.  
23 Right now, I'll leave this with the magistrate judge. But  
24 quite frankly, if I take this back from the magistrate  
10:12:16 25 judge, I've got a better --

10:12:17 1 MR. GATES: Your Honor, I would welcome that. I  
2 think it would help the Court to understand what the issues  
3 are better. But at the same time, I also think meeting and  
4 conferring and agreeing to, perhaps, revised dates is  
10:12:33 5 prudent as well, so I think both are acceptable.

6 THE COURT: Let me just leave that on the table in  
7 the present posture, except whatever wisdom or disagreement  
8 you have in the future, okay?

9 MR. GATES: Thank you, Your Honor.

10:12:42 10 THE COURT: Now, I don't know who's coming over.  
11 Sometimes members of your board come over. I don't want the  
12 Government to claim -- for Veterans Day, for the celebration  
13 in the hallway, or for the Marine Corps' birthday.

14 And I don't want you to be caught, unless you're  
10:12:57 15 welcome to appear *ex parte* to cake and coffee, or go home.  
16 You're welcome, too. But I just want to inform you, if a  
17 politician shows up for either side, you're on notice.  
18 You're welcome to co-equally have cake and coffee or  
19 disappear, okay?

10:13:11 20 MR. GATES: Happy Veterans Day, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Happy Veterans Day.

22 MR. GATES: And thank you for your service.

23 THE COURT: That's very kind. But happy  
24 Veterans Day.

10:13:17 25 THE CLERK: Is there going to be a due date for

10:13:19 1 that updated discovery report?

2 THE COURT: I don't know.

3 MR. GATES: We will work it out, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Leave that to counsel at the present  
10:13:28 5 time. The less orders I can make, the more you can cover  
6 yourselves. You never want to have a judge start making  
7 arbitrary orders. I always want to talk to both of you  
8 first.

9 MR. GATES: Thank you, Your Honor. Happy  
10:13:39 10 Veterans Day.

11 THE COURT: Happy Veterans Day to you.

12 *(At 10:13 a.m., proceedings were adjourned.)*

13 -oOo-

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that pursuant to Section 753,  
Title 28, United States Code, the foregoing is a true and  
correct transcript of the stenographically reported  
proceedings held in the above-entitled matter and that the  
transcript page format is in conformance with the  
regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Date: November 23, 2025

/s/DEBORAH D. PARKER  
DEBORAH D. PARKER, OFFICIAL REPORTER

*Deborah D. Parker, U.S. Court Reporter*

MR. GATES: [51] MR. RICHARDS: [1] 3/23 MS. HAMILL: [2] 3/14 3/18 MS. SHOAI: [16] 3/20 17/13 17/19 19/23 20/24 22/16 23/1 23/19 24/2 24/9 24/18 25/17 27/11 27/20 28/6 28/9 THE CLERK: [1] 29/25 THE COURT: [68]	25-cv-09149-DJC [2] 3/5 28/7 28 [1] 31/3 2:25-cv-09149-DJC [1] 1/8 3 300 [1] 2/8 3300 [1] 2/22 35 to [1] 18/5 35 years [1] 18/7 4 40 years [1] 18/5 400 [2] 2/14 2/20 411 [1] 1/22 4305 [1] 1/23 5 50 [2] 7/6 7/7 6 657 [1] 1/23 679-6891 [1] 2/5 6891 [1] 2/5 7 714 [2] 2/16 2/22 7516 [1] 2/8 753 [1] 31/2 8 834-2359 [1] 2/16 834-3300 [1] 2/22 894-2464 [1] 2/9 9 90012 [1] 2/9 92701 [3] 1/23 2/16 2/21 950 [1] 2/4 9:00 a.m [1] 26/12 9:16 [2] 1/17 3/1 A a.m [5] 1/17 3/1 26/2 26/12 30/12 ability [1] 9/3 able [3] 5/21 5/23 21/19 about [11] 4/13 8/2 8/22 11/13 11/20 12/5 12/13 15/10 16/2 18/3 19/15 above [1] 31/5 above-entitled [1] 31/5 accept [1] 14/6 acceptable [3] 27/10 27/14 29/5 accepting [1] 10/25 accountability [1] 18/15 across [4] 5/15 6/15 14/1 16/18 acts [1] 19/12 actually [3] 15/12 22/6 23/22 addition [1] 15/5 address [1] 23/11 addressed [2] 7/17 9/1 addressing [1] 16/23 adjourned [1] 30/12 ADR [5] 27/21 27/23 27/24 28/5 28/8 advocacy [1] 15/12 afforded [1] 26/17	after [2] 24/4 28/11 again [4] 13/1 13/7 15/1 22/21 against [1] 19/20 ago [2] 5/21 9/16 agree [2] 15/13 28/3 agreeing [1] 29/4 ahead [2] 19/11 19/22 all [10] 5/3 5/8 8/10 9/19 10/1 12/18 16/6 16/25 18/11 28/7 allowed [1] 25/6 almost [1] 15/2 along [3] 6/13 12/17 26/25 already [4] 7/4 20/5 21/1 27/22 also [12] 3/17 4/12 6/21 7/12 15/15 16/3 16/13 17/6 23/21 24/5 28/21 29/3 always [2] 11/3 30/7 am [4] 12/7 21/9 21/22 22/22 AMERICA [2] 1/6 2/2 amicus [3] 11/22 11/22 11/23 ANA [8] 1/3 1/15 1/23 2/16 2/21 3/1 5/19 26/1 ANGELES [24] 2/8 2/9 4/2 4/14 4/16 5/16 10/18 14/10 14/19 15/8 15/17 16/2 16/8 16/19 17/15 18/4 18/7 18/16 21/17 23/3 24/6 24/19 26/13 26/15 announced [1] 13/17 another [4] 6/5 12/16 24/7 28/20 answer [3] 11/8 20/10 23/9 anticipate [1] 15/22 anticipated [1] 23/24 any [14] 4/7 4/8 5/14 9/5 10/13 11/8 12/9 13/9 14/4 18/5 22/7 22/16 25/7 26/18 anymore [1] 27/18 anything [1] 11/9 anyway [1] 14/14 apologies [2] 8/4 24/10 apologize [2] 5/17 6/19 appear [8] 20/15 23/21 23/25 25/10 25/11 26/17 27/5 29/15 appearance [1] 4/3 appearances [2] 1/25 3/7 appeared [1] 6/11 appears [1] 21/20 appropriate [2] 11/17 27/11 approved [2] 22/6 22/7 arbitrary [1] 30/7 are [21] 3/17 5/24 6/16 6/24 7/16 10/9 10/16 11/13 14/23 15/10 16/25 18/9 19/21 21/3 21/10 21/25 26/16 26/21 27/5 29/3 29/5 aren't [2] 18/13 18/14 argue [1] 22/2 argument [4] 13/8 19/18	22/4 26/18 arguments [1] 15/5 around [3] 7/2 10/7 16/13 as [17] 1/9 6/24 10/8 11/11 12/10 13/6 13/11 13/16 13/17 14/2 15/19 18/2 23/20 26/6 26/19 26/22 29/5 ask [2] 18/13 18/14 asking [1] 18/12 assumed [2] 5/13 13/19 assuming [2] 17/11 23/12 Attorney [2] 4/8 15/16 attorney's [3] 2/7 15/1 15/14 attorneys [1] 15/3 audit [2] 18/4 18/6 available [1] 28/16 AVENUE [1] 2/4 aware [1] 22/16 B back [8] 8/3 8/14 16/11 17/22 22/12 26/4 28/22 28/24 balance [1] 19/15 balking [1] 17/9 based [1] 13/20 Bass [1] 17/25 be [58] because [17] 6/12 7/1 7/14 9/7 10/10 14/5 15/25 17/3 19/6 19/25 20/25 21/7 21/20 22/1 23/6 24/3 24/22 been [10] 5/22 5/22 7/17 8/16 10/2 18/3 23/18 23/20 23/22 27/19 before [5] 5/6 5/10 11/6 16/5 28/15 beforehand [1] 25/15 begin [2] 3/7 4/10 behalf [3] 3/11 3/14 3/21 being [5] 11/22 15/13 16/4 18/20 20/8 believe [5] 4/21 23/1 23/20 23/24 27/22 benefit [2] 11/21 13/23 Besides [1] 5/3 better [3] 24/4 28/25 29/3 between [1] 16/10 billion [1] 18/9 billions [1] 18/17 birth [1] 22/19 birthday [3] 8/8 8/9 29/13 bit [1] 26/9 board [1] 29/11 Bonta [1] 4/8 both [10] 8/16 9/1 9/20 12/10 12/25 19/9 27/8 28/3 29/5 30/7 box [3] 2/15 2/21 17/10 briefings [1] 11/23 briefly [1] 12/4 Broadway [1] 16/16	cake [4] 8/18 25/14 29/15 29/18 calendars [1] 14/14 CALIFORNIA [10] 1/2 1/15 1/23 2/9 2/16 2/21 3/1 12/2 26/1 27/4 call [4] 17/4 17/5 23/7 25/4 calling [1] 11/23 came [1] 8/14 can [24] 6/21 8/2 11/14 11/15 11/17 15/22 16/10 16/18 19/8 21/5 21/7 21/8 23/9 23/12 23/16 23/16 23/19 24/5 25/3 25/15 27/17 28/19 30/5 30/5 can't [3] 5/19 16/16 18/18 capacity [1] 1/9 care [1] 8/17 CARTER [1] 1/4 case [28] 1/8 3/4 3/19 4/5 4/22 5/11 5/14 6/5 6/7 7/1 7/12 7/16 7/17 9/12 10/2 10/3 11/21 13/18 16/24 19/22 20/1 20/18 20/22 21/2 22/17 22/20 23/11 26/21 cases [10] 6/13 6/14 6/15 6/20 6/21 9/1 9/21 13/16 24/23 25/4 caught [2] 17/10 29/14 cause [2] 20/1 26/19 causes [1] 9/9 celebration [2] 8/10 29/12 CENTER [2] 2/14 2/20 CENTRAL [1] 1/2 certain [1] 28/12 certainly [2] 19/14 24/19 certificate [2] 22/20 30/14 CERTIFIED [1] 1/5 certify [1] 31/2 cetera [1] 14/2 chambers [1] 22/12 chance [3] 9/17 11/4 22/2 change [6] 9/7 9/10 14/5 26/14 27/13 27/16 changed [1] 8/13 check [4] 7/21 8/1 14/14 22/10 choice [1] 18/23 City [3] 15/3 15/14 15/16 City's [1] 15/2 CIVIC [2] 2/14 2/20 civil [1] 6/7 claim [1] 29/12 clarification [2] 6/17 20/12 clean [1] 9/24 clear [2] 20/4 20/4 clerks [1] 22/13 clouds [1] 12/10 co [1] 29/18 co-equally [1] 29/18 coco.oc.com [1] 2/22 coco.ocgov.com [1]
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