

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-

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
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 --

20 MS. SHOAI: Good morning, Your Honor.

21 Deputy County Counsel Suzanne Shoai, c

defendant Robert Page.

23 MR. RICHARDS

24 Daniel Richards, Deputy County Counsel for

25 defendant Robert Page.

Doktorat: R. R. Raghava, U. G. Gopal, Ranganathan

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 intervenors
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;

10:09 A.M.

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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
0 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
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.
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.

At the November 17th hearing, the Court will consider the motions to stay in the Page and Weber matters, 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.

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
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
another update, if the Court would like to --

20 THE COURT: I'm also wondering if the Court
21 shouldn't seize discovery back from the magistrate judge.
22 Right now, I'll leave this with the magistrate judge. But
23 quite frankly, if I take this back from the magistrate
24 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?

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.

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.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

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

8

9 Date: November 23, 2025

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

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MR. GATES: [51]	25-cv-09149 [2] 3/5 26/7	after [2] 24/4 28/11 again [4] 13/11 13/7 13/16 13/17 14/2 15/19 18/2 23/20 26/6 26/19 26/22 29/5	22/4 26/18 arguments [1] 13/5
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