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19 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
20 **FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

21 George Retes, Jr.,

22 *Plaintiff,*

23 v.

24 United States of America; and DOES 1
25 through 10, Unknown Officers of the
26 Federal Bureau of Prisons, United
27 States Immigration and Customs
28 Enforcement, the United States Navy,
the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and
United States Customs and Border
Protection,

Defendants.

Case No.:

**COMPLAINT FOR
DECLARATORY RELIEF AND
DAMAGES**

INTRODUCTION

1
2 1. This is a civil-rights lawsuit arising from federal officers' unlawful
3 detention of an innocent United States citizen.

4 2. One afternoon last July, 2025, George Retes, Jr.—an Army combat
5 veteran, father, and security guard—was trying to report to his scheduled shift at
6 a farm in Camarillo, California.

7 3. Unbeknownst to George, though, federal officers were conducting
8 an immigration raid at the farm. Workers were being rounded up. Family
9 members, journalists, and bystanders had gathered on the road leading to the farm.
10 The scene was tense but nonviolent.

11 4. As George slowly drove on the road leading to the farm, he
12 encountered a line of federal officers blocking his path. Calm and compliant,
13 George explained that he was a U.S. citizen and that he worked at the facility; he
14 was trying to get to work. He was not protesting. He was not interfering with law
15 enforcement. And he was not threatening.

16 5. The officers, for their part, showed no interest in confirming
17 George's story. No officer suggested he had broken any law, either. And no officer
18 perceived him as a threat.

19 6. Instead of letting him pass, some officers ordered George to leave.
20 Others ordered him to get out of his car. George tried to comply with the
21 conflicting commands. But the officers engulfed his vehicle in tear gas, pounded
22 on his window until it shattered, sprayed George with pepper spray, dragged him
23 from his car, and threw him to the ground.

24 7. George did not resist. Using his military training to stay calm, he
25 voluntarily placed his arms behind his back to show compliance. Still, officers
26 knelt on his back and neck, zip-tied his hands, and detained him for hours at the
27 farm—without ever telling him what he was accused of.
28

1 8. That was only the beginning of the ordeal. Federal officers
2 transported George to a Navy base, where they fingerprinted him, photographed
3 him, shackled him, and took a DNA sample—all without a warrant, probable
4 cause, or any legitimate explanation. George was denied access to a phone and
5 was not allowed to wash the chemicals off his burning skin.

6 9. That evening, federal officers transferred George to the Metropolitan
7 Detention Center in Los Angeles. There, he was strip searched, deprived of his
8 belongings, and held incommunicado for three days and three nights. He was
9 never brought before a judge and was never charged with any offense.

10 10. Over the three days (approximately 72 hours) he spent in custody, he
11 was deprived of basic rights that even suspected criminals receive. He was not
12 allowed a phone call, access to counsel, or a hearing. He was also subjected to
13 inhumane treatment, not being allowed a shower to wash chemical irritants off his
14 body.

15 11. George missed work, lost professional standing with his employer,
16 and missed his daughter's third birthday party. The traumatic experience
17 exacerbated injuries he had sustained during his military service. And throughout
18 his detention, no federal officer could provide an answer to the simplest question:
19 *Why am I here?*

20 12. George brings this case seeking accountability for his
21 unconstitutional and tortious treatment by federal officers. This complaint lays
22 out several pathways for relief.

23 13. For the federal constitutional violations and for the torts he suffered,
24 George asserts the following:

- 25 a. state-law claims under California's Tom Bane Civil Rights Act
26 (Count 1) and traditional torts (Counts 2–5), for violations of
27 George's Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights, under two
28 alternative theories:

- i. either those state-law claims are available under the Westfall Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2679(b)(2)(A), as traditional remedies for constitutional violations by federal officers; or
 - ii. if the Westfall Act is held to preclude those claims, and no other remedy is available to George, the Westfall Act is unconstitutional as applied to him, and whatever barrier the Act poses to his state-law claims is invalid and ineffective.
- b. constitutional claims directly under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments for violations of George’s constitutional rights (Count 6);
 - c. claims under the Westfall Act, which codified *Bivens* as it existed in 1988, for the violations of George’s constitutional rights (Count 7); and
 - d. claims against the United States government under the Federal Tort Claims Act for the wrongful acts and omissions of the government’s employees with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (Count 8).

14. George anticipates adding other claims against the United States under the Federal Tort Claims Act for the wrongful acts and omissions of the other federal officers responsible for George’s unlawful treatment. Those claims are the subject of pending administrative claims with the Department of Homeland Security, including Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Navy.

15. At base, a central promise of our justice system is that innocent people like George are entitled to be free from arbitrary imprisonment, and inhumane conditions at the hands of federal agents. *See Noem v. Perdomo*, 146 S. Ct. 1, 5 (2025) (Kavanaugh, J., concurring) (“To the extent that excessive force has been used, the Fourth Amendment prohibits such action, and remedies should

1 be available in federal court.”). Whatever path the Court ultimately selects,
2 George is entitled to be made whole.

3 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4 16. Plaintiff George Retes, Jr., brings this case under the Fourth and
5 Fifth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; the Federal Tort
6 Claims Act and the Westfall Act of 1988, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346, 2674 *et seq.*; and
7 California law.

8 17. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1367
9 because George asserts claims under federal laws and his state-law claims seek to
10 remedy constitutional violations and arise from the same underlying events.

11 18. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 84(c)(2), 1391(b)(2), and
12 1402(b) because the events giving rise to this action occurred in Ventura and Los
13 Angeles counties.

14 PARTIES

15 19. Plaintiff George Retes, Jr., is a citizen of the United States.

16 20. When the underlying events occurred, George resided in Ventura,
17 California, where he continues to reside.

18 21. Defendant United States of America is the government of the United
19 States.

20 22. Defendants named as DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, are unknown
21 officers of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, United States Immigration and Customs
22 Enforcement, the United States Navy, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and
23 United States Customs and Border Protection are, or at least were at the time of
24 the underlying events, employees of the United States government. During the
25 underlying events, the officers subjected George, or caused him to be subjected,
26 to the deprivation of his constitutional rights and his rights under California law.
27 At all relevant times, they were acting within the scope of their employment. They
28

1 include officers depicted in the photos in the allegations below. They are sued in
2 their individual capacities.¹

3 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

4 ***A. Federal officers violently detain George.***

5 23. Shortly after 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2025, Plaintiff George
6 Retes, Jr. headed to work from home.

7 24. It was a warm, sunny day in Ventura, California, George's birthplace
8 and current home.

9 25. His uniform was in the car, ready to be worn at the start of his shift.

10 26. Now he wore gym shorts and Crocs on his feet.

11 27. Over a T-shirt he wore his favorite sweatshirt—one from the first
12 unit to which he was assigned in the Army: Echo Troop, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry
13 Regiment.

14 28. He had gotten the sweatshirt while based at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

15 29. The front bore the unit's "Hellcats" logo, along with "ECHO
16 TROOP" and "5-1 CAV."

17 30. The back displayed a larger logo with "HELLCATS" and "HEAVY
18 WEAPONS."

19 31. Departing for work, George got into his white Hyundai Elantra,
20 which also signaled his background as an Army combat veteran.

21 32. His license plate said, "COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE" and
22 "DISABLED VETERAN U.S. ARMED FORCES."

23 33. A decal on the back window said, "IRAQ COMBAT VETERAN."

24 34. George was not in the military anymore.

26
27 ¹ George has tried to learn these Defendants' identities through public records
28 requests to the federal agencies. The agencies have not disclosed the officers' identities.

1 35. Serving a tour in Kirkuk, Iraq, during rocket attacks by Iran-backed
2 militias had taken a physical and emotional toll on him.

3 36. He also wanted to spend more time with his kids.

4 37. So he was honorably discharged in 2022.

5 38. Now George drove his usual route to work as a security guard.

6 39. His employer was the national security-services contractor Securitas.

7 40. Securitas assigned George to work at a licensed marijuana-growing
8 facility, Glass House Farms, in Camarillo, California.

9 41. There he manned a guard shack, letting employees and invitees onto
10 the property and keeping trespassers out.

11 42. Normally George worked night shifts, but for July 10, he had finally
12 gotten the shift he'd long been asking for: an afternoon-to-evening shift.

13 43. But as he drove closer to the farm, he discovered that something was
14 out of the ordinary.

15 44. On the single road leading to the farm's entrance, cars were backed
16 up and pedestrians were walking and standing around.

17 45. Unbeknownst to George, an immigration-enforcement raid was
18 happening at Glass House Farms.

19 46. Federal law-enforcement officers were rounding up workers
20 suspected of illegal immigration.

21 47. Family members, protesters, and journalists had gathered on the road
22 leading to the farm.

23 48. None of them were behaving violently.

24 49. George slowly navigated through the traffic until, at about 2:25 p.m.,
25 he encountered a row of federal officers standing across the road, blocking his
26 path to work.

27 50. He showed no signs of guilt for any crimes, immigration or
28 otherwise.

1 51. Indeed, he did not flee at the sight of law enforcement.

2 52. He did not appear scared or nervous.

3 53. Nor was he boisterous or belligerent.

4 54. He was not protesting.

5 55. He did not make any threatening or dangerous maneuvers with his
6 vehicle.

7 56. He did not make any combative gestures or remarks.

8 57. He did not even honk his horn.

9 58. His wallet with his driver's license was in the vehicle, along with his
10 phone.

11 59. He calmly exited his vehicle and stood next to it.

12 60. He had nothing in his hands.

13 61. He was clearly unarmed.

14 62. George's body language and words showed he was calm and on a
15 singular mission to get to work—to be on time for a shift he had finally been
16 assigned.

17 63. He stayed about a car's length away from the line of officers: far
18 enough to show caution and a lack of interest in harming anyone or interfering
19 with their operations, but close enough to converse with them.

20 64. He explained to the officers that he is a U.S. citizen, was not a
21 protester, and was simply trying to get to work at the farm, where he works as a
22 security guard.

23 65. No officer showed any interest in confirming that George was (or
24 wasn't) who he said he was.

25 66. No officer suggested that George had violated any laws.

26 67. No officer suggested that George was suspected of any crime, any
27 immigration violation, any violent act, or any protest activity.

28 68. But they did not let him pass to get to work.

1 69. Instead, they told him that “work is closed today” and to go home.

2 70. George knew that if he didn’t show up to his shift, he could lose pay
3 and his good reputation with his employer. He also would not get this desired shift
4 again.

5 71. But as the row of officers started walking forward, toward George,
6 the protesters, and others, George figured that it was not worth trying to get to
7 work anymore.

8 72. George got back into his car and slowly backed it up and moved it to
9 another part of the road, out of the way of a line of armored vehicles and buses
10 that were leaving the farm.

11 73. Once that row of vehicles passed, officers gave George conflicting
12 orders.

13 74. Some said to get out of the vehicle.

14 75. Some said to back up the vehicle.

15 76. Trying to comply and avoid hitting the officers or anyone else,
16 George slowly backed the vehicle up.

17 77. Officers then deployed tear-gas canisters on the road behind
18 George’s vehicle, between his vehicle and the protesters and others.

19 78. As George continued to slowly back up, his car was engulfed in
20 clouds of tear gas.

21 79. He could no longer see, and it was hard for him to breathe.

22 80. Unable to safely maneuver his car, he stopped it.

23 81. One or more officers pounded on George’s driver’s side window
24 with a firearm.

25 82. George explained to the officers, “I’m trying to leave.”

26 83. Still, an officer shattered the window, showering George with glass.

27 84. Some of the glass shards cut one of his exposed thighs.
28

1 85. One officer reached through where the window had been and sprayed
2 George's face and body with pepper spray.

3 86. Another pulled George out of the vehicle and violently threw him to
4 the ground, coughing and bleeding, skin burning from chemical irritants:



19 87. No officer gave George a less violent option.

20 88. George was clearly nonthreatening and was clearly not part of the
21 protest, which itself was nonviolent.

22 89. Using his military training to stay calm, George did not resist the
23 officers; he knew it would only make things worse.
24
25
26
27
28

1 90. Lying on his stomach, he voluntarily put his arms behind his back to
2 show that he was cooperating and was not a threat:



16 91. Still, next an officer knelt on George's back.

17 92. Another officer put a knee on George's neck.

18 93. Officers soon pulled George up off the ground and zip-tied his hands
19 behind his back.

20 94. At no time did any officer hint that George was suspected of any
21 crime.

22 95. Officers walked George to the farm and ordered him to sit on the dirt.

23 96. George was separated from detainees whom officers suspected of
24 immigration offenses.

25 97. He sat in his place in the dirt, near two other citizen-detainees, for
26 about four hours with his hands zip-tied.

27 98. During this time, an officer asked George if he had his wallet with
28

1 him.

2 99. George explained that it was in the center console of his vehicle.

3 100. Nobody retrieved or inspected his wallet or driver's license.

4 101. George also explained again to officers that he is a U.S. citizen, was
5 not protesting, and was simply trying to get to work.

6 102. He also reiterated that he is a veteran and that he had work as a
7 security guard at the farm.

8 103. He repeatedly asked officers why he was being detained.

9 104. Nobody answered George's question.

10 105. Nobody seemed to know.

11 106. He also heard officers asking one another why George had been
12 arrested.

13 107. Nobody had any answers.

14 108. Officers at the farm included or may have included agents from
15 Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and
16 Customs and Border Protection.

17 109. George figured he would be released from the farm at any moment,
18 because he was aware of no crime he could be suspected of committing.

19 110. He was wrong.

20 ***B. George is transported to a Navy base and searched.***

21 111. Federal officers next moved George into an unmarked SUV, hands
22 still zip-tied.

23 112. Officers placed another detained U.S. citizen in the same SUV.

24 113. Two officers were in there, too.

25 114. One drove the vehicle to Port Hueneme.

26 115. There, officers took George's fingerprints, photographed him,
27 exchanged the zip ties for handcuffs and leg shackles, and swabbed his cheek for
28 a DNA sample.

1 116. The officers at the base included those from the U.S. Navy, the
2 Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

3 117. One officer gave George warnings about certain rights, though
4 George was never told that he was suspected or accused of any crime.

5 118. He also asked George why ICE agents had detained George.

6 119. George replied that he didn't know and would like to learn the
7 answer to that question, too.

8 120. While detained at the base, George asked officers if he could make a
9 phone call and talk with an attorney.

10 121. George had put his phone in his pocket before officers dragged him
11 from his car, but he could not access it because his hands were first zip-tied and
12 then handcuffed.

13 122. He also asked why he was being detained and when he would be
14 released.

15 123. He also asked to wash the chemical irritants off his body.

16 124. Nobody answered George's questions, and he was not allowed to
17 make a phone call, contact an attorney, or clean his skin.

18 ***C. George is transported again and detained for three days and nights.***

19 125. Later in the evening, federal officers transported George to the
20 federal Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles.

21 126. The detention center is part of and controlled by the Federal Bureau
22 of Prisons.

23 127. This time, no other detainees were in the transport vehicle with him.

24 128. He arrived between 9 and 10 p.m.

25 129. His personal belongings were taken from him: his clothes, phone, a
26 watch, and jewelry.

27 130. He was strip-searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and given jail
28 garb to wear.

1 131. He kept asking officers or personnel at the facility why he was being
2 detained, when he would be released, and whether he could make a phone call and
3 talk with an attorney.

4 132. He also explained that his daughter's third birthday party would be
5 on Saturday, and it was really important for him to be there.

6 133. He also explained that he hadn't been given a phone call yet.

7 134. He was given no answers.

8 135. He was not allowed to make a phone call, speak with an attorney, see
9 a judge, or take a shower.

10 136. The tear gas and pepper spray kept burning his skin.

11 137. That night, he tried to relieve the pain with resourcefulness: he put
12 water in sandwich bags given to him with his meal of sandwiches, then soaked
13 his hands in that water.

14 138. But it didn't help; in fact, it only seemed to worsen the pain.

15 139. Wherever his body touched anything, it felt like it was on fire.

16 140. He hardly slept that night, in pain and distress about being locked up
17 inexplicably, with no ability to contact the outside world.

18 141. The next morning (Friday), George underwent medical screening
19 and a psychological evaluation.

20 142. He was distressed about being locked up for no good reason, having
21 no idea whether or when he would be released, and feeling entirely cut off from
22 the outside world, with his daughter's birthday party the next day.

23 143. As a result of the psychological evaluation, George was placed on
24 suicide watch.

25 144. That meant he was clothed in only a garment resembling a hospital
26 gown, he was given only a thin mattress, a guard remained nearby, and the lights
27 remained on around the clock.

28 145. George kept asking why he was detained and asked to make a phone

1 call and talk with an attorney.

2 146. He continued to get the same nonresponse.

3 147. On information and belief, the officials who continued to detain
4 George knew or should have known that no allegations of criminal wrongdoing
5 supported his detention.

6 148. He was not presented to any judge for a hearing.

7 149. He was not given a phone call.

8 150. He was not allowed to shower.

9 151. He was completely incommunicado with anyone outside the
10 detention facility.

11 152. Nothing at the facility made it physically impossible or unreasonably
12 impractical to allow George to make a phone call, to be presented to a judge for a
13 hearing, or to take a shower.

14 153. Nothing changed from those conditions for the next day (Saturday).

15 154. Still no hearing with a judge, no shower, no phone call, no ability to
16 contact an attorney.

17 155. George's family was frantically searching for him.

18 156. His wife, mom, and aunt cried out to anyone who would listen and
19 help.

20 157. A farm-labor union, United Farm Workers, discovered that George
21 was being held at the Metropolitan Detention Center.

22 158. On Sunday morning (the third day of George's detention), the union
23 started reaching out to media outlets and scheduled a press conference for Monday
24 morning in front of the Metropolitan Detention Center, with George's family
25 planning to attend.

26 159. The Associated Press, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times
27 asked the Metropolitan Detention Center and/or Department of Homeland
28 Security about George's detention and the planned press conference.

1 160. On Sunday afternoon, an officer told George he was going to be off
2 suicide watch and would be released.

3 161. That same afternoon, he was escorted downstairs.

4 162. He was given his belongings and documents that say, “CBP Form
5 6051D” and “Department of Homeland Security U.S. Customs and Border
6 Protection Detention Notice and Custody Receipt for Detained Property.”

7 163. The documents listed the “reason for detention” as simply “detained
8 pursuant to arrest.”

9 164. George was told there were no charges against him.

10 165. George asked: “So I was kept here for three days and missed my
11 daughter’s birthday for nothing?”

12 166. He received no response.

13 167. For George, it was the loudest silence he had ever heard.

14 168. George was then released.

15 169. He called his wife, who picked him up and took him home to the rest
16 of his family, where he took a shower and hugged his kids with overwhelming
17 relief.

18 ***D. George submits administrative claims and records requests.***

19 170. In the weeks and months following his detention, George submitted
20 administrative claims and records requests about the underlying events to the
21 agencies involved: the Department of Homeland Security, including Immigration
22 and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection; the Federal
23 Bureau of Prisons; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Department of the
24 Navy.

25 171. On August 22, 2025, the Federal Bureau of Prisons mailed George’s
26 representative a response to his administrative claim, which stated that the Bureau
27 was “referring the claim . . . to the United States Immigration and Customs
28 Enforcement since it appears the activities of this agency gave rise to the

allegations.”²

172. The agencies have produced no records that George requested.

INJURY TO PLAINTIFF

173. During the whole ordeal, George experienced traumatic physical and psychological abuse.

174. He was handcuffed, shackled, transported, searched, treated like a violent criminal, deprived of a shower to wash off chemical irritants, and denied basic civil rights.

175. He was deprived of his personal property while detained.

176. He was jailed for three days and three nights without legitimate reasons and without explanation.

177. He was deprived of a hearing with a judge.

178. He was deprived of access to an attorney.

179. Had he been given a hearing within 48 hours of his detention, he would have been released at least one day earlier and would have gotten to wash off the chemicals from his body at least one day sooner.

180. He was not allowed to call anyone—his family, friends, an attorney, or his boss.

181. Being entirely cut off from the outside world was distressing.

182. He was unable to explain to his boss that he was (literally) tied up and unable to come to work, through no fault of his own.

183. He lost wages from the shifts he missed while detained.

² George’s administrative claims with the other agencies remain pending. If those agencies deny his claims, he anticipates amending his complaint to add additional claims against the United States under the Federal Tort Claims Act—claims of tortious conduct by the John Does who do not work in the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

184. Because he was a “no call, no show” to his assigned shifts, George’s employer prohibited him from returning to work for a while, during which time he lost wages from shifts he would have worked.

185. His reputation as a valued employee was diminished.

186. The physically and psychologically traumatic experience exacerbated injuries George sustained in the military: herniated disks in his neck and post-traumatic-stress disorder.

187. George missed priceless time and events with his family, including his daughter’s third birthday party.

CLAIMS

188. George asserts various claims based on Defendants’ violations of his Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights. The next two subsections outline those constitutional violations. The first seven causes of action asserted after that seek to remedy the constitutional violations. George also asserts claims against the United States for its officers’ tortious conduct.

189. The Westfall Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2679(b), states that the Federal Tort Claims Act supplies an exclusive remedy for certain acts or omissions of federal employees acting within the scope of their offices or employment but that remedy does *not* preclude other remedies in “a civil action against an employee of the Government . . . which is brought for a violation of the Constitution of the United States.”

190. Traditionally, state-law torts have supplied remedies for constitutional violations by federal officers. Other avenues for redress for constitutional violations may be found in California’s Civil Rights Act; the federal Constitution, itself; and the Westfall Act of 1988.

191. George thus asserts a claim against the United States under the Federal Tort Claims Act for federal employees’ tortious conduct (Count 8, below), and he also asserts claims for the employees’ violations of the U.S. Constitution:

1 claims under California's Tom Bane Civil Rights Act (Count 1), state-law tort
2 claims that have traditionally remedied constitutional violations by federal
3 officers (Counts 2–5), claims directly under the U.S. Constitution (Count 6), and
4 claims under the Westfall Act (Count 7).

5 192. If the Westfall Act precludes all recovery for the tortious and
6 unconstitutional acts of John Does, then the Westfall Act is unconstitutional as
7 applied to George, and George is entitled to proceed against the individual John
8 Does on his state-law counts directly (Counts 1–5).

9 ***A. Fourth Amendment violations: unreasonable searches and seizures***

10 193. The Fourth Amendment protects “[t]he right of the people to be
11 secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches
12 and seizures.” U.S. Const. amend. IV.

13 194. A search or seizure of persons, houses, papers, or effects violates the
14 Fourth Amendment when the search or seizure is unsupported by probable cause
15 and unsupported by a warrant, or when the search or seizure is carried out in an
16 unreasonable way.

17 195. John Does who transported George to and/or were at the Navy base
18 violated George's Fourth Amendment rights.

19 196. They carried out unreasonable searches of George by fingerprinting
20 him and taking a DNA sample from his cheek with neither a warrant nor probable
21 cause to believe he had committed a crime.

22 197. They also unreasonably prolonged George's detention by
23 transporting him to the base, cuffing his hands and shackling his legs, and keeping
24 him detained without a legitimate basis.

25 198. John Does who transported George to and were at the Metropolitan
26 Detention Center also violated George's Fourth Amendment rights.

27 199. They prolonged his detention without a legitimate basis by
28 transporting him to the Metropolitan Detention Center.

1 200. They strip-searched him.

2 201. They seized his belongings.

3 202. They did not allow him to shower to clean the chemical irritants off
4 his skin.

5 203. They did not allow him to make a phone call.

6 204. They did not give him access to an attorney.

7 205. They denied him a prompt hearing with a judge following his
8 warrantless arrest.

9 206. John Does who violated George's Fourth Amendment rights include
10 Federal Bureau of Prisons officers.

11 207. John Does who violated George's Fourth Amendment rights were
12 acting as investigative or law-enforcement officers—that is, as officers of the
13 United States who are empowered by law to execute searches, to seize evidence,
14 or to make arrests for violations of federal law.

15 ***B. Fifth Amendment violations: deprivation of liberty and property***

16 208. The Due Process clause of the Fifth Amendment provides that no
17 person shall be “deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.”
18 U.S. Const. amend. V.

19 209. California law gives pretrial detainees a liberty interest in making
20 at least three completed phone calls immediately upon being booked and, except
21 where physically impossible, no later than three hours after arrest.

22 210. Department of Homeland Security standards entitle many
23 detainees to reasonable and equitable access to telephone services.

24 211. Those standards entitle detainees to make calls to family and an
25 attorney as soon as possible after requesting to call, at least within 24 hours of the
26 request and ordinarily within eight waking hours.

27 212. Those standards also require staff to document and report any
28 incident of delay beyond eight waking hours.

1 213. George was arrested at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, July
2 10, 2025.

3 214. He was given no phone call during his entire detention, which
4 lasted until the afternoon of Sunday, July 13, 2025 (approximately 72 hours).

5 215. John Does, including those who work in the Federal Bureau of
6 Prisons, deprived George of access to phone calls during his three-day detention
7 following his arrest.

8 216. In doing so, John Does deprived George of a protected liberty
9 interest without due process of law.³

10 217. John Does also deprived George of physical liberty and property
11 when they continued to detain him and took his personal belongings away, with
12 neither probable cause nor a warrant.

13 218. John Does arbitrarily prolonged George's detention simply
14 because he was in the vicinity of an immigration raid and had addressed officers
15 about them blocking his path to get to work.

16 219. George was arbitrarily subjected to a prolonged detention, and his
17 personal property was taken, because Defendants lacked procedures to adequately
18 ensure that innocent people are freed once officials realize (or should realize) that
19 they lack a legitimate basis to hold them.

20 220. John Does knew or should have known that George's continued
21 detention was baseless given information that was readily available to them.

22 221. John Does also deprived George of due process by depriving him
23 of a hearing with a judge for his entire detention lasting approximately 72 hours.

24 222. John Does' indifference to George's innocence and the
25 circumstances surrounding his arrest violated his right to due process.

27 ³ This denial of access to a phone call also violated George's First Amendment
28 rights.

1 ***C. Causes of action***

2 **Count 1**

3 **Tom Bane Civil Rights Act:**

4 **Fourth and Fifth Amendment Violations**

5 ***Against John Doe Defendants***

6 223. George realleges and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1
7 through 222.

8 224. California's Tom Bane Civil Rights Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 52.1,
9 provides a cause of action against "a person or persons, whether or not acting
10 under color of law," who "interferes by threat, intimidation, or coercion, or
11 attempts to interfere by threat, intimidation, or coercion, with the exercise or
12 enjoyment by any individual or individuals of rights secured by the Constitution
13 or laws of the United States, or of the rights secured by the Constitution or laws
14 of this state."

15 225. John Does, by coercion, intentionally interfered with George's
16 enjoyment of his Fourth Amendment rights.

17 226. They intentionally prolonged his detention arbitrarily, without any
18 legitimate basis.

19 227. They intentionally deprived him of a shower.

20 228. They intentionally deprived him of all phone calls.

21 229. They intentionally deprived him of access to an attorney.

22 230. They intentionally deprived him of a hearing with a judge.

23 231. John Does, by coercion, intentionally interfered with George's Fifth
24 Amendment rights.

25 232. They intentionally deprived him of all phone calls for approximately
26 72 hours.

27 233. They intentionally deprived him of a hearing with a judge for his
28 entire three-day detention.

1 234. As a result of John Does' conduct, George suffered the injuries listed
2 above.

3 235. George is entitled to nominal, compensatory, and exemplary
4 damages for his injuries caused by John Does' conduct.

5 **Count 2**

6 **Trespass to Chattels**

7 ***Against John Doe Defendants***

8 236. George realleges and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1
9 through 222.

10 237. The unreasonable seizure of George's property also amounts to
11 trespass to chattels under California law.

12 238. Without legal authority, John Does intentionally interfered with
13 George's possession of his personal property, and depriving him of his vehicle
14 and personal artifacts during his detention.

15 239. John Does demonstrated willful and conscious disregard for
16 George's rights and safety.

17 240. As a result of John Does' tortious conduct, George suffered the
18 injuries listed above, including discomfort from being stripped of his clothing,
19 lost wages from being unable to report to work, and trauma from being unable to
20 contact anyone with his phone.

21 241. George is entitled to nominal, compensatory, and punitive damages
22 for his injuries caused by John Does' unconstitutional and tortious conduct.

23 **Count 3**

24 **Assault and Battery**

25 ***Against John Doe Defendants***

26 242. George realleges and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1
27 through 222.

1 243. The unconstitutional searches and seizure of George by John Does
2 amount also to assault and battery under California law.

3 244. Without legal authority, John Does intended to cause harmful or
4 offensive contact with George—cuffing his hands and shackling his legs,
5 fingerprinting him and taking a DNA sample from inside his mouth, strip-
6 searching him, and locking him in cells.

7 245. George did not consent to John Does’ conduct, which would have
8 been offensive to any reasonable person.

9 246. John Does demonstrated willful and conscious disregard for
10 George’s rights and safety.

11 247. As a result of John Does’ tortious conduct, George suffered the
12 injuries listed above.

13 248. George is entitled to nominal, compensatory, and punitive damages
14 for his injuries caused by John Does’ unconstitutional and tortious conduct.

15 **Count 4**

16 **False Imprisonment and False Arrest**

17 ***Against John Doe Defendants***

18 249. George realleges and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1
19 through 222.

20 250. The unconstitutional seizure of George, and the deprivation of his
21 rights to make phone calls and to have a prompt hearing, by John Does also
22 amount to false imprisonment and false arrest under California law.

23 251. Without legal authority, John Does intentionally prolonged George’s
24 detention, confining him to jail cells.

25 252. Without legal authority, John Does intentionally deprived George of
26 a prompt hearing with a judge within 48 hours of his arrest.

27 253. Without legal authority, John Does intentionally denied George use
28 of a phone, using physical force and physical barriers.

1 254. George did not consent to John Does' conduct, which would have
2 been offensive to any reasonable person.

3 255. John Does demonstrated willful and conscious disregard for
4 George's rights and safety.

5 256. As a result of John Does' tortious conduct, George suffered the
6 injuries listed above.

7 257. George is entitled to nominal, compensatory, and punitive damages
8 for his injuries caused by John Does' unconstitutional and tortious conduct.

9 **Count 5**

10 **Negligence**

11 ***Against John Doe Defendants***

12 258. George realleges and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1
13 through 222.

14 259. The unconstitutional treatment of George by John Does also amounts
15 to negligence under California law.

16 260. John Does had a legal duty to use reasonable, due care to continue
17 detaining an individual only when John Does had probable cause to believe that
18 person has committed a crime.

19 261. John Does also had a legal duty to use reasonable, due care to search
20 an individual (with fingerprints, a DNA sample, and a full-body strip search) only
21 when John Does had probable cause to believe the person is detained on
22 allegations of criminal conduct.

23 262. John Does also had a legal duty to exercise reasonable, due care to
24 ensure that detainees receive three phone calls within three hours of their arrest.

25 263. John Does also had a legal duty to exercise reasonable, due care to
26 ensure that detainees have access to an attorney within three hours of their arrest.

1 264. John Does also had a legal duty to exercise reasonable, due care to
2 ensure that detainees receive a probable-cause hearing within forty-eight hours of
3 their arrest.

4 265. John Does breached those legal duties.

5 266. John Does demonstrated willful and conscious disregard for
6 George's rights and safety.

7 267. As a result of John Does' willful and negligent conduct, George
8 suffered the injuries listed above.

9 268. George is entitled to nominal, compensatory, and punitive damages
10 for his injuries caused by John Does' unconstitutional and tortious conduct.

11 **Count 6**

12 **Fourth and Fifth Amendment Violations**

13 ***Against John Doe Defendants***

14 269. George realleges and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1
15 through 222.

16 270. John Does are liable directly under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments
17 for their violations of George's Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights.

18 271. At least some John Does were rank-and-file law-enforcement
19 officers.

20 272. John Does prolonged George's detention and searched George with
21 neither probable cause nor a warrant.

22 273. They also deprived him of a phone call.

23 274. They deprived him of access to an attorney.

24 275. They deprived him of a shower.

25 276. They deprived him of a hearing.

26 277. John Does arbitrarily deprived George of physical liberty.

27 278. They arbitrarily deprived him of property.

1 279. They arbitrarily deprived him of his liberty right to three phone calls
2 during his detention.

3 280. John Does were not enforcing immigration laws, carrying out
4 border-patrol activities, or addressing a risk to national security.

5 281. As a direct result of John Does' Fifth Amendment violations, George
6 suffered the injuries listed above.

7 282. George is entitled to compensatory damages for his injuries caused
8 by John Does' unconstitutional conduct.

9 **Count 7**

10 **Westfall Act:**

11 **Fourth and Fifth Amendment Violations**

12 ***Against John Doe Defendants***

13 283. George realleges and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1
14 through 222.

15 284. When enacting the Westfall Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2679(b)(2)(A),
16 Congress endorsed two kinds of claims seeking redress for constitutional
17 violations: *Bivens* claims and traditional state-law remedies.

18 285. In this way, Congress codified the availability of *Bivens* claims as
19 that avenue for relief existed in 1988, when the Westfall Act was enacted.

20 286. In 1988, *Bivens* generally provided an avenue for relief against
21 federal officers for violations of Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights.

22 287. John Does violated George's Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights as
23 detailed above.

24 288. As a direct result, George suffered the injuries listed above.

25 289. George is entitled to compensatory damages for John Does'
26 constitutional violations under 28 U.S.C. § 2679(b)(2)(A).

Count 8

Federal Tort Claims Act

Against Defendant United States of America

290. George realleges and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 222.

291. At all times relative to this count, John Does with the Federal Bureau of Prisons were acting under color of law and within the scope of their offices or employment as agents of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

292. All those John Does were also acting as investigative or law-enforcement officers—that is, as officers of the United States who were empowered by law to execute searches, to seize evidence, or to make arrests for violations of federal law.

293. As described above, the acts and omissions of John Does acting within the scope of their offices or employment with the Federal Bureau of Prisons amount to multiple torts recognized by California law, including:

- a. trespass to chattels;
- b. assault;
- c. battery;
- d. false imprisonment and false arrest; and
- e. negligence.

294. A private person would be liable to George under like circumstances for torts under the laws of California.

295. As a direct result of these John Does' actions, George suffered the injuries listed above.

296. Defendant United States of America is thus liable under the Federal Tort Claims Act for the acts and omissions of John Does acting within the scope of their offices or employment with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests relief as follows:

A. An award of nominal, compensatory, and punitive or exemplary damages against John Doe Defendants, for their tortious and unconstitutional acts and omissions.

B. An award of nominal and compensatory damages against Defendant United States of America, for the tortious and unconstitutional acts and omissions of its agents in the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

C. A declaration that George's rights under California tort law and the Fourth and Fifth Amendments have been violated.

D. An award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs against the United States. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2412.

E. All further legal and equitable relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: February 18, 2026

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