

**2025 Immigration Court Observation -MERIT Hearing**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Observer: \_\_\_\_\_  In Person  WebEx

**GENERAL**

1. 9 digit A# or last 3: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Country of origin : \_\_\_\_\_

3. Gender:  Male  Female  Trans/ non-binary  Unsure  Didn't appear, reason: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Judge:  Carr  Ivany  Mazzie  Miller  Sardelli  Wood  Zaske  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. DHS Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_  didn't appear

6. Was the respondent represented today?  Yes  No, pro se  Attorney failed to appear

Comment (incl. atty name): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Has the respondent been deemed incompetent by the court ?  Yes  No  Unsure

8. Is today's hearing a continuation of a previously commenced merits hearing?  Yes  No  Unsure

9. **DOCKET:**  Non-Detained  IHP (prison)  ICE detention  Unsure; Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**LANGUAGE**

10. Respondent's preferred language: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Did court find interpreter in preferred language?:  Yes  No; If no, what language provided? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Interpretation:  No problems  Problem; Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**MERITS**

13. **Relief being sought/ application being heard** (check all that apply)

- Adjustment of status
- I-589:  Asylum /  WOR /  CAT
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Cancellation:  42A (LPR)  42B
- Termination Dismissal
- Unsure
- Voluntary Departure

14. Comment re evidence submitted by Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Comment re evidence submitted by DHS: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Testimony/ Witnesses- (check all that apply)  Respondent  Family  Country Expert  
 Other Supporter  Medical  Mental Health

17. Did judge place any constraints on testimony?  Yes  No; Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Comment about testifiers/ testimony: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Were there supporters present (court / webex) who did not testify?  no  yes, family  yes, other supporters

**Presence in country**

20. Respondent's entry date/ length of time in the US: \_\_\_\_\_  Unknown

21. Does respondent have family in the US?  Yes  No  Unknown If family present, who and what status in US: \_\_\_\_\_

**Background**

22. What was said about conditions in home country? \_\_\_\_\_

Not discussed

**Criminal history**

23. Arrests or convictions?  Not Discussed  No criminal Hx  Has at least one arrest  Has at least one conviction

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Legal argument**

24. Describe the main argument of respondent (or attorney): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

25. Describe the main argument of government attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

26. Describe main questioning / reasoning of Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

27. Did judge make an adverse credibility or character finding?  Yes  No  Unsure; Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Health**

28. Was there mention of respondent having the following medical/ mental health issues?

- |   |  |   |                                |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar              | <input type="checkbox"/> Depression/ Anxiety     | <input type="checkbox"/> Schizophrenia          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Dependency  | <input type="checkbox"/> PTSD                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Torture Survivor       | <input type="checkbox"/> None  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual assault survivor | <input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain injury |                                |

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUSION**

29. Judge's action:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Case Cont'd for testimony     | <input type="checkbox"/> Relief Denied  | <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary departure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Case Cont'd for oral decision | <input type="checkbox"/> Relief Granted | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Will issue written decision   | Relief type: _____                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____        |

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

30. If continued, next hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

31. If removal order, did judge give advisal about consequences of unauthorized return, bars to relief, fines for non-cooperation?  Yes  No  Unsure Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

32. Did parties reserve appeal of decision?  NA (no decision today) DHS:  Yes  No Respondent:  Yes  No

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**33. Other comments, impressions, concerns:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

34. How long did hearing last?  less than 2 hours  2-3 hours  3-4 hours  More than 4 hours